ZORRO®
MAN OF THE DEAD
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with colors by
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ZORRO®

MAN OF THE DEAD

VOLUME ONE

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ZORRO®: MAN OF THE DEAD

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CHAPTER ONE

ZORRO!
TING
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT YOU WERE BEHIND THIS REVOLUTION!
YOUR REIGN OF TERROR IS OVER, CAPTAIN MONASTERIO! THE PEOPLE HAVE CHOSEN A NEW TYPE OF GOVERNMENT, FREE FROM THE CORRUPTION OF SPANISH TYRANNY.
AND WHO WILL PROTECT THEM IN MY PLACE? WHO WILL LEAD THEM AND GIVE THEM PURPOSE?
CERTAINLY NOT A BANDIT LIKE YOU!
THE PEOPLE OF LA VEGA WILL BE FREE TO LEAD THEM-SELVES!
AND SHOULD ANYONE EVER INTERFERE WITH THAT, THEY WILL FACE...
THWIP THWIP THWIP

...THE BLADE OF ZORRO!
ZORRO
ZORRO
HOORAY FOR ZORRO!
THE SAVIOR OF LA VEGA!

BRAVO, SEÑOR! BRAVO!
DIA DE LOS MUERTOS IS A VERY SPECIAL HOLIDAY FOR MEXICO. BUT FOR LA VEGA, IT MEANS SOMETHING MORE!
THIS FESTIVAL ISN'T ONLY ABOUT HONORING THE SPIRITS OF OUR FAMILIES, BUT CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF OUR MOST FAMOUS SON--THE GREATEST HERO IN ALL OF MEXICO, EL ZORRO!

180 YEARS AGO TODAY, ZORRO CAME TO THIS CHURCH, SAID A PRAYER, THEN CARVED A Z INTO THE DOORWAY--A SYMBOL OF THE SACRED VOW HE MADE TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE. THEN HE MOUNTED TORONADO, TIPPED HIS HAT, AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE SUNSET FOREVER.
THE WORLD THINKS THAT ZORRO IS JUST A MYTH, BUT WE KNOW THAT DIEGO DE LA VEGA WAS A REAL MAN. AND HIS SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US, PROTECTING OUR SACRED VALLEY!

DAD! THAT WAS SO COOL!
THANK YOU, DIEGO!
WHAT DID YOU THINK, ROSA?

I THINK YOU LOOK RIDICULOUS.
I THINK HE LOOKS AWESOME!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A BABY, AND ONLY BABIES BELIEVE IN ZORRO.
DAD! TELL ROSA THAT ZORRO WAS REAL!

WELL DONE, ANTONIO! ALL THAT TRAINING REALLY PAID OFF.
IF YOU THOUGHT LEARNING FROM GUY WILLIAMS WAS HARD, WAIT UNTIL I TEACH YOU TYRONE POWER.

MAYBE ONE DAY I'LL TRAIN YOU TO FENCE AS WELL, YOUNG DIEGO. AFTER ALL, THIS VILLAGE CAN'T HAVE A DIEGO DE LA VEGA WHO CAN'T USE A SWORD.
REALLY? DAD, CAN I?!

ALEJANDRO!

IF YOU WANT TO INDULGE YOUR DELUSIONAL BELIEFS IN ZORRO, THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS. BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE PUSHING THOSE LIES ONTO THE PEOPLE.
AND ESPECIALLY NOT IN LA VEGA, WHERE IT'S FORBIDDEN.

MY PEOPLE HAVE DONE EVERYTHING YOU'VE ASKED, EL ROJO-- WE EVEN CONVERTED ALL OUR CROPS TO GROW POPPY FOR THE CARTEL.
FORBIDDING US TO CELEBRATE ZORRO IS LIKE FORBIDDING US TO CELEBRATE DIA DE LOS MUERTOS.
ZORRO IS A SYMBOL OF DEFIANCE, ALEJANDRO. AND I DON'T WANT IT INTERFERING WITH OUR ARRANGEMENT.

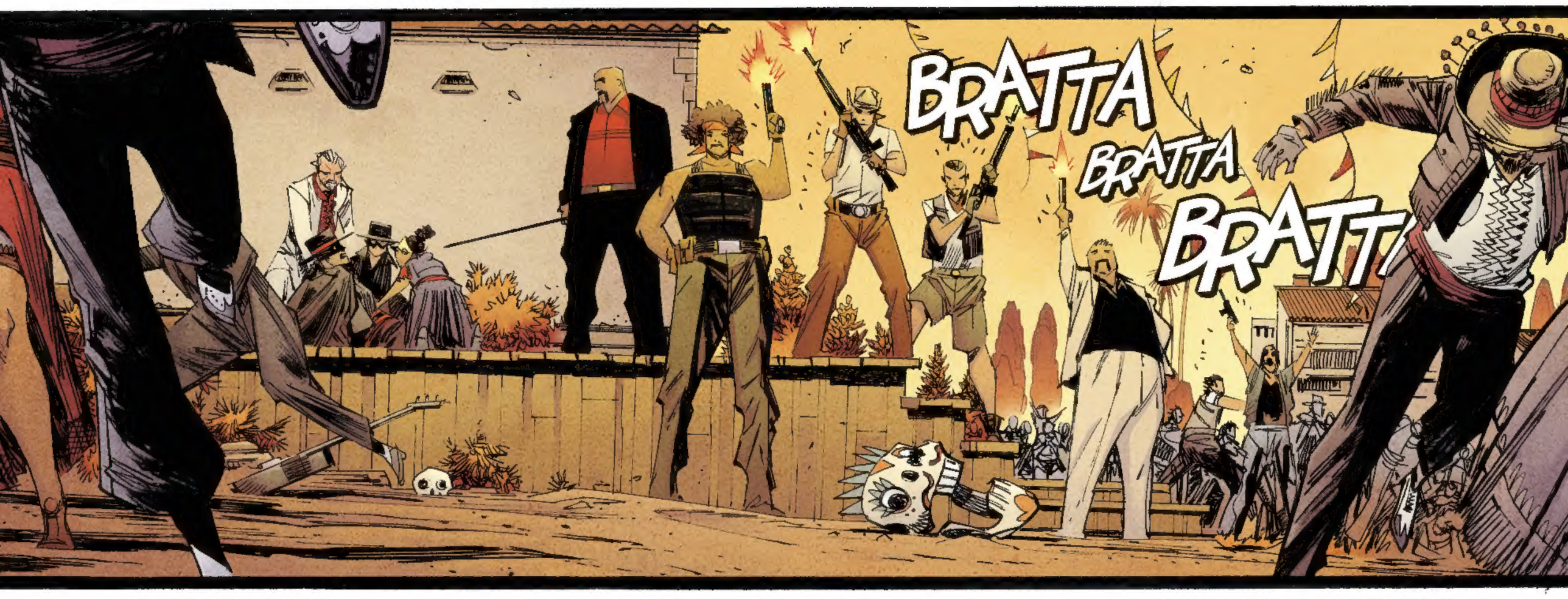
THERE IS NO ARRANGEMENT IF WE CAN'T CELEBRATE ZORRO!
IS THAT HOW THE REST OF YOU FEEL?
ARE YOU WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOUR JOBS AND THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN FOR THIS RAMBLING OLD MAN?

NO ONE?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

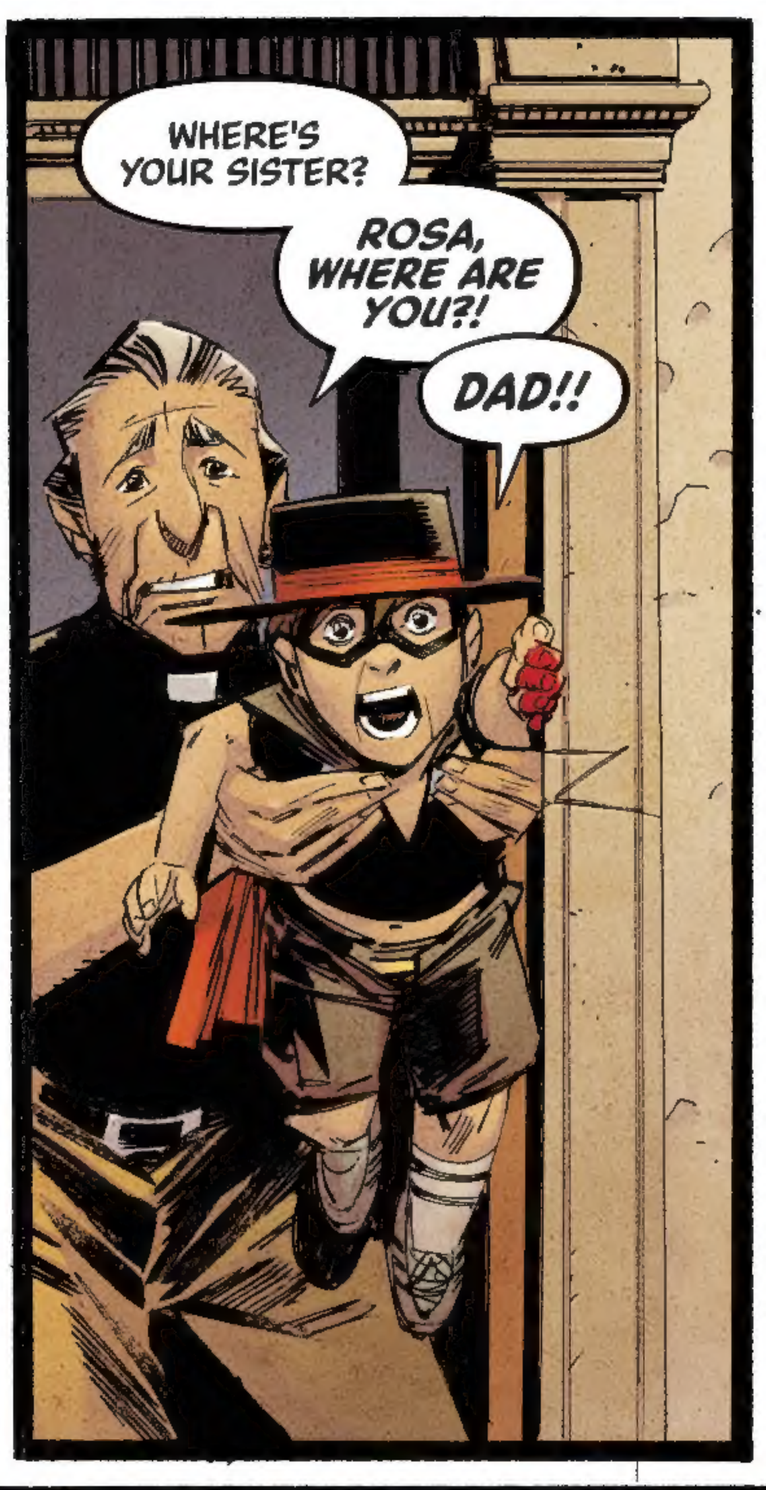
I WON'T HAVE YOU SOWING THE SEEDS OF A REVOLUTION, ALEJANDRO.
SO IF I SEE YOU GROWING ANYTHING OTHER THAN POPPY...

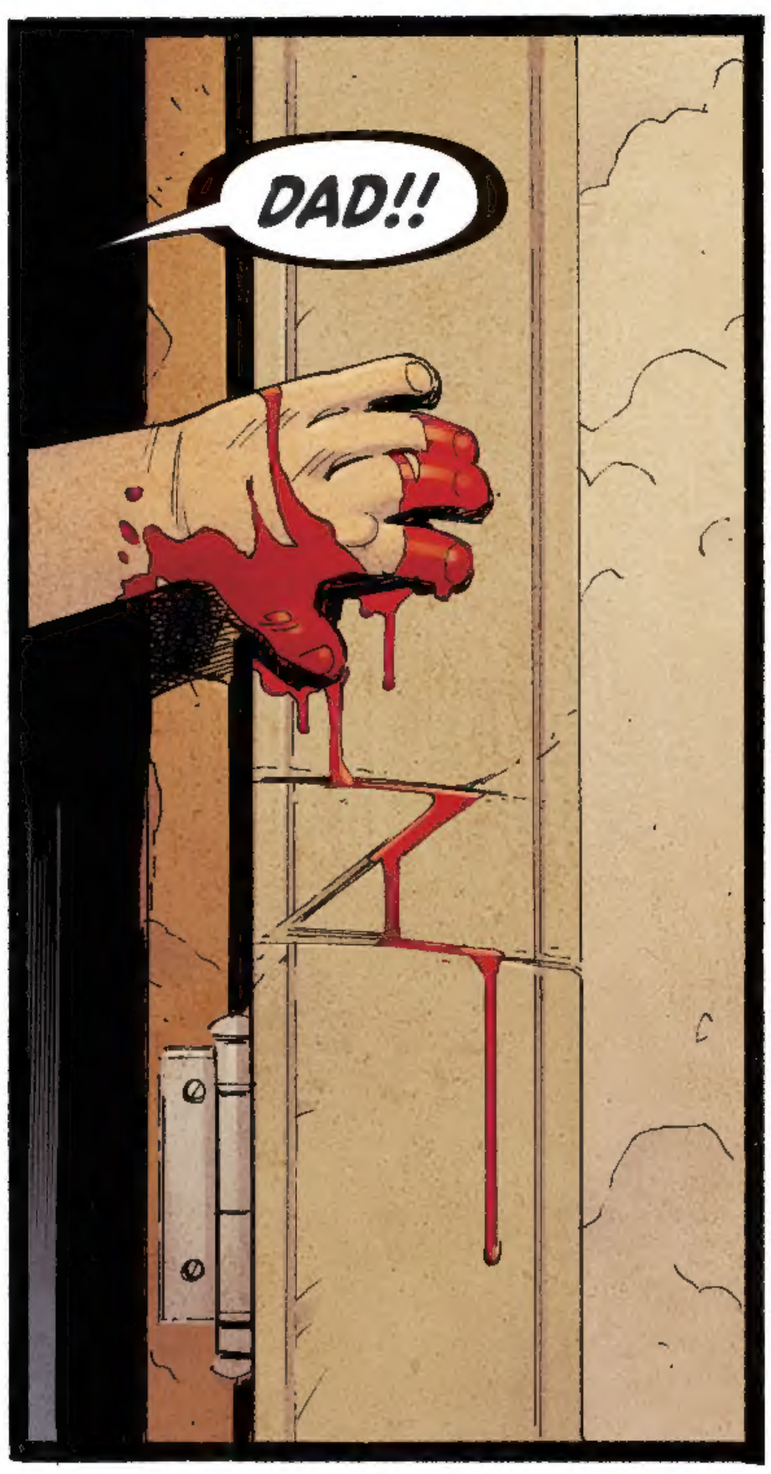
...I'LL CUT IT DOWN!
SLASH

DAD!!


BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA

DIEGO! THIS WAY--INTO THE CHURCH!
NO!

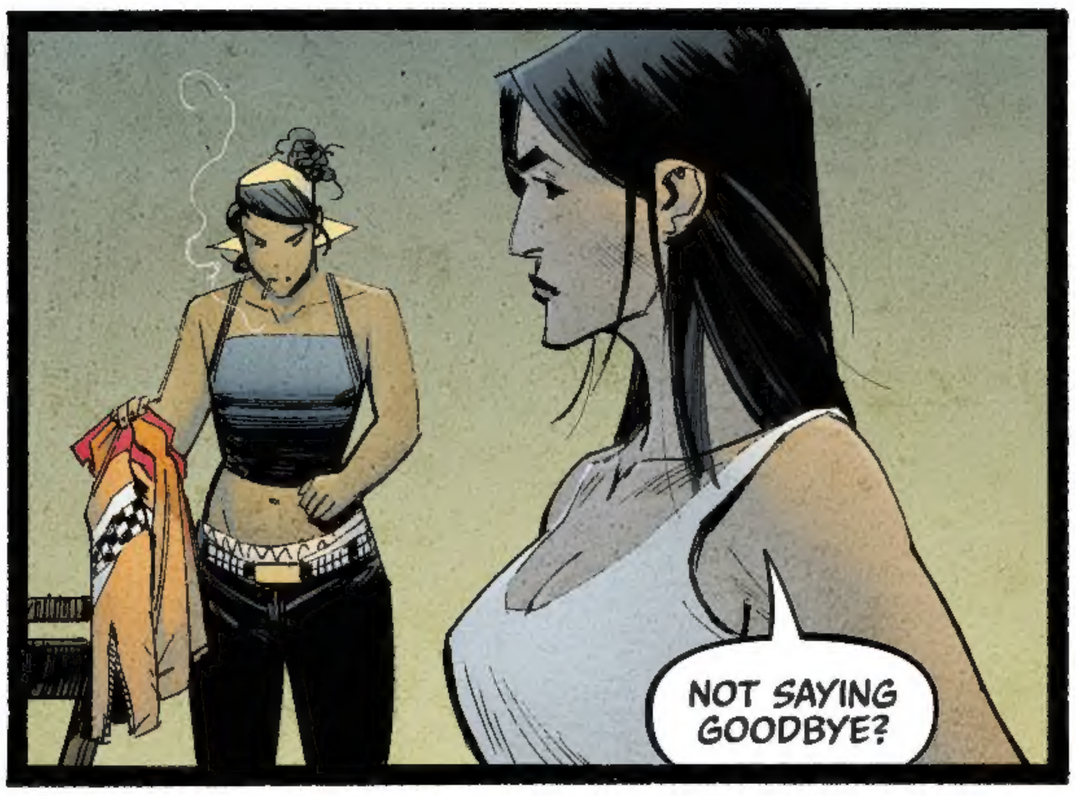

WHERE'S YOUR SISTER?
ROSA, WHERE ARE YOU?!
DAD!!


DAD!!

ROSA!!! ROSA, PLEASE...

"...COME BACK!"

FLICK


NOT SAYING GOODBYE?

I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU.
YOU TOLD ME YOU WOULD QUIT.
ONE LAST CIGARETTE. I SWEAR.

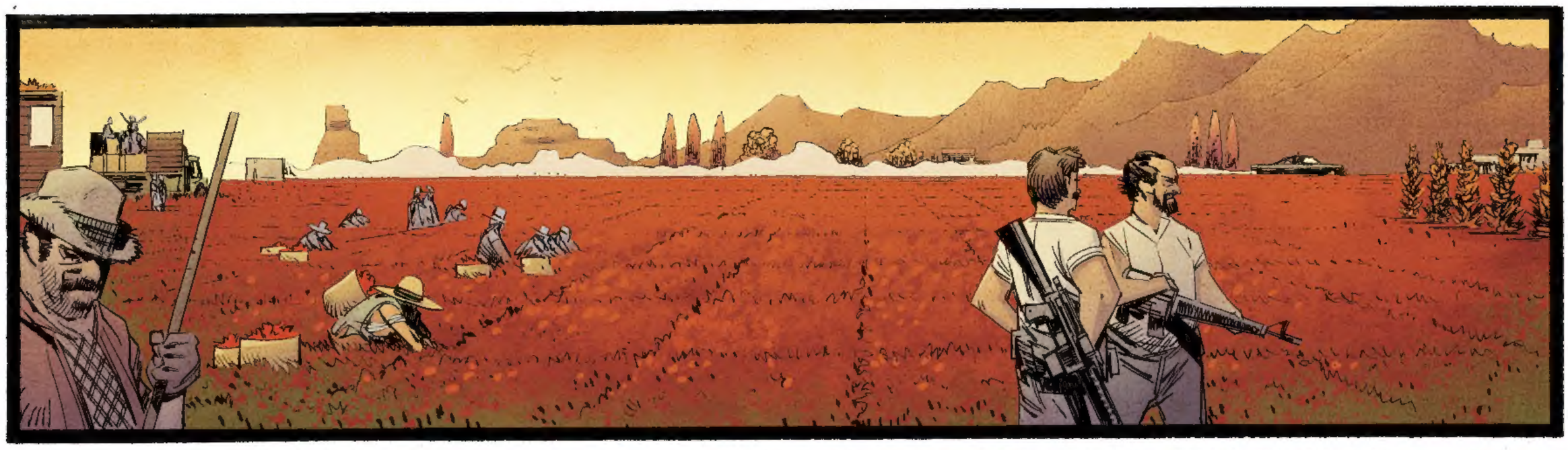
NOT SMOKING-- QUIT WORKING FOR THEM.

I TRIED. BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
NO ONE IN LA VEGA DOES.
JINGLE

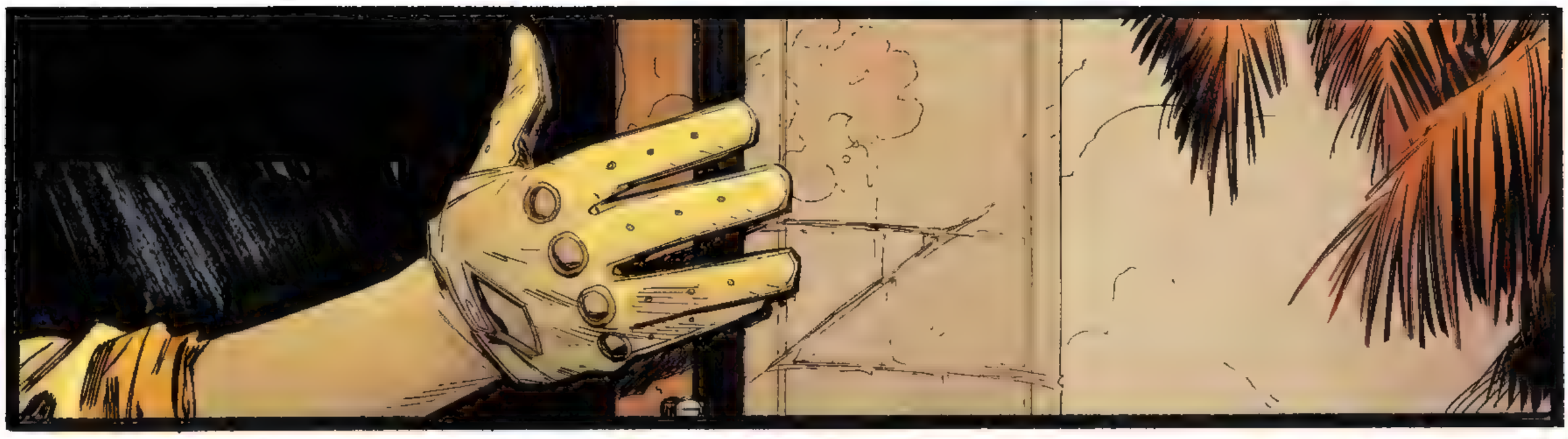
PUFF
MECANICA

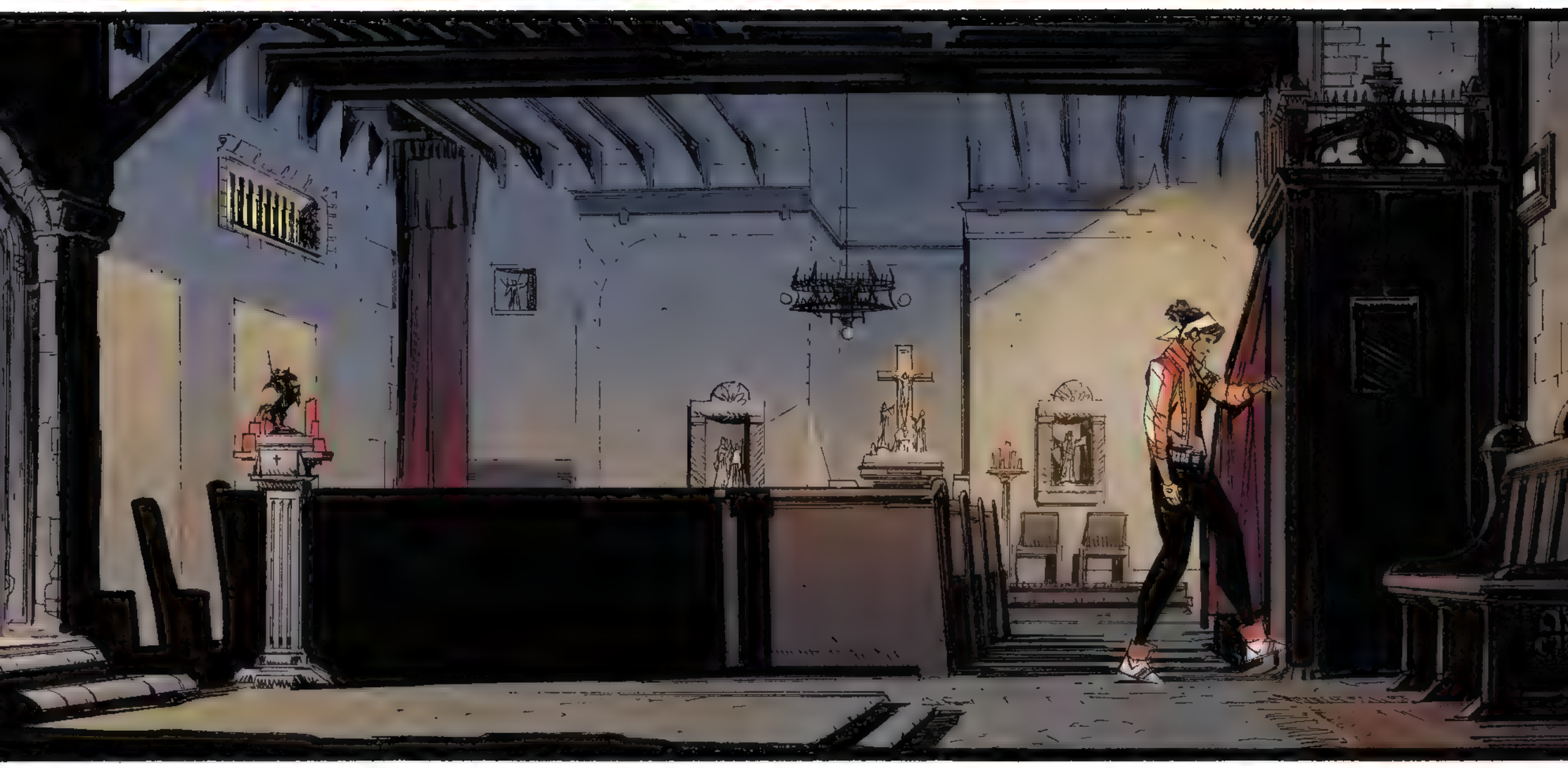
VROOM

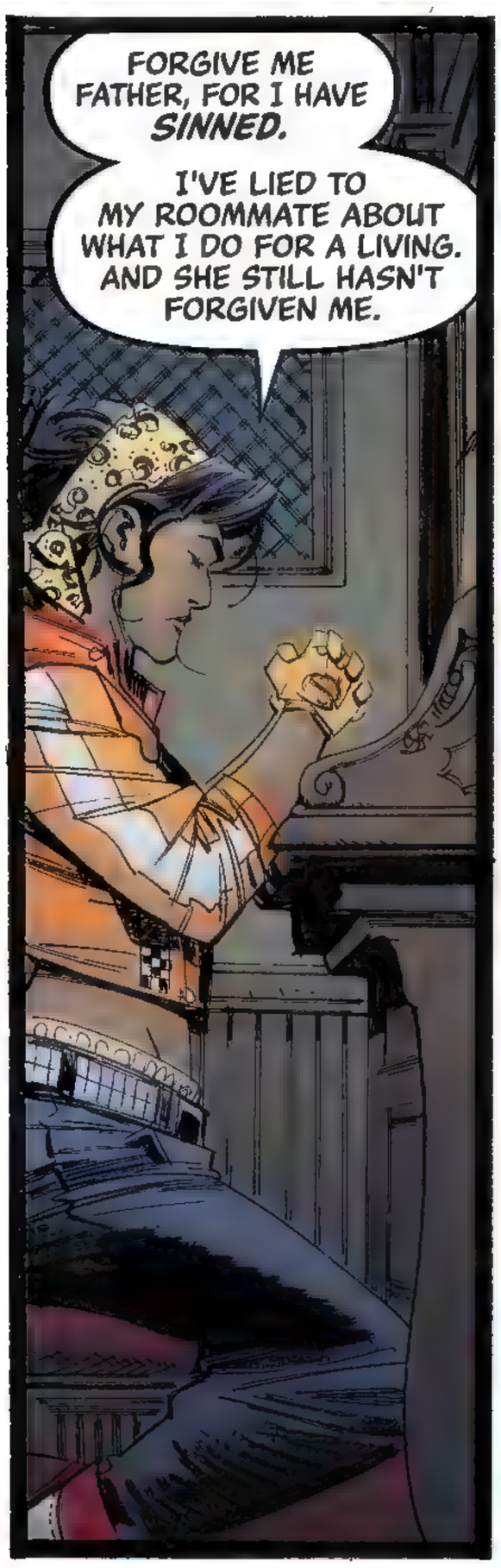
RENDIRSE
APARTAMENTOS



FLICK
TENADO

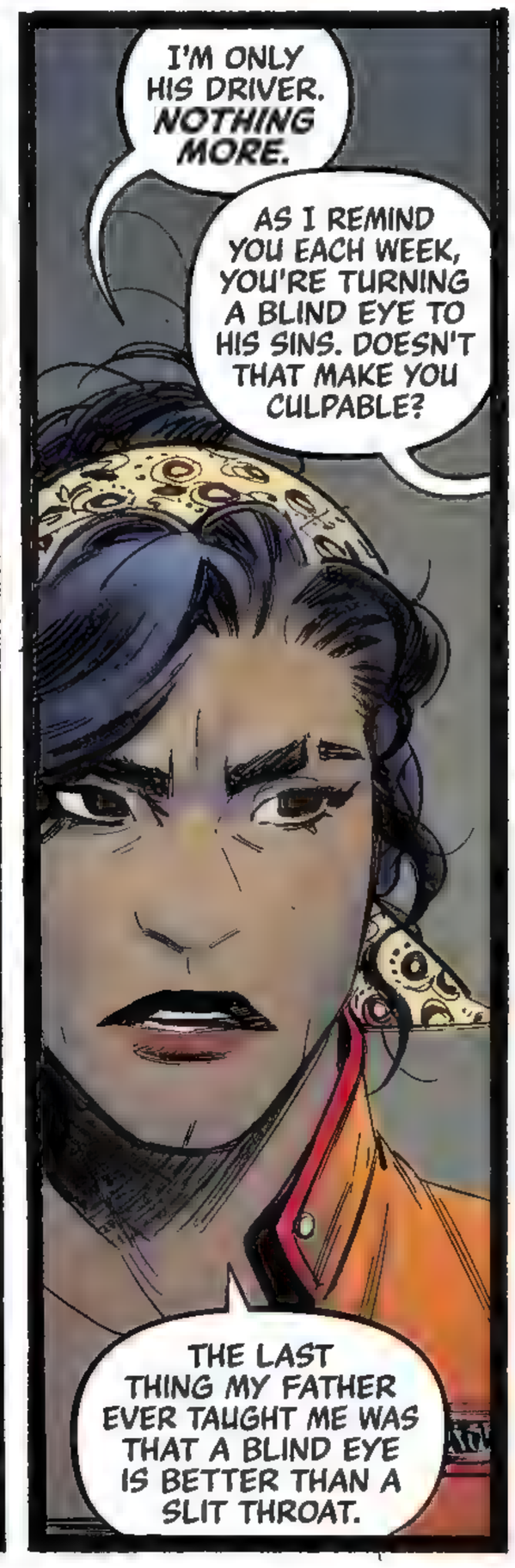


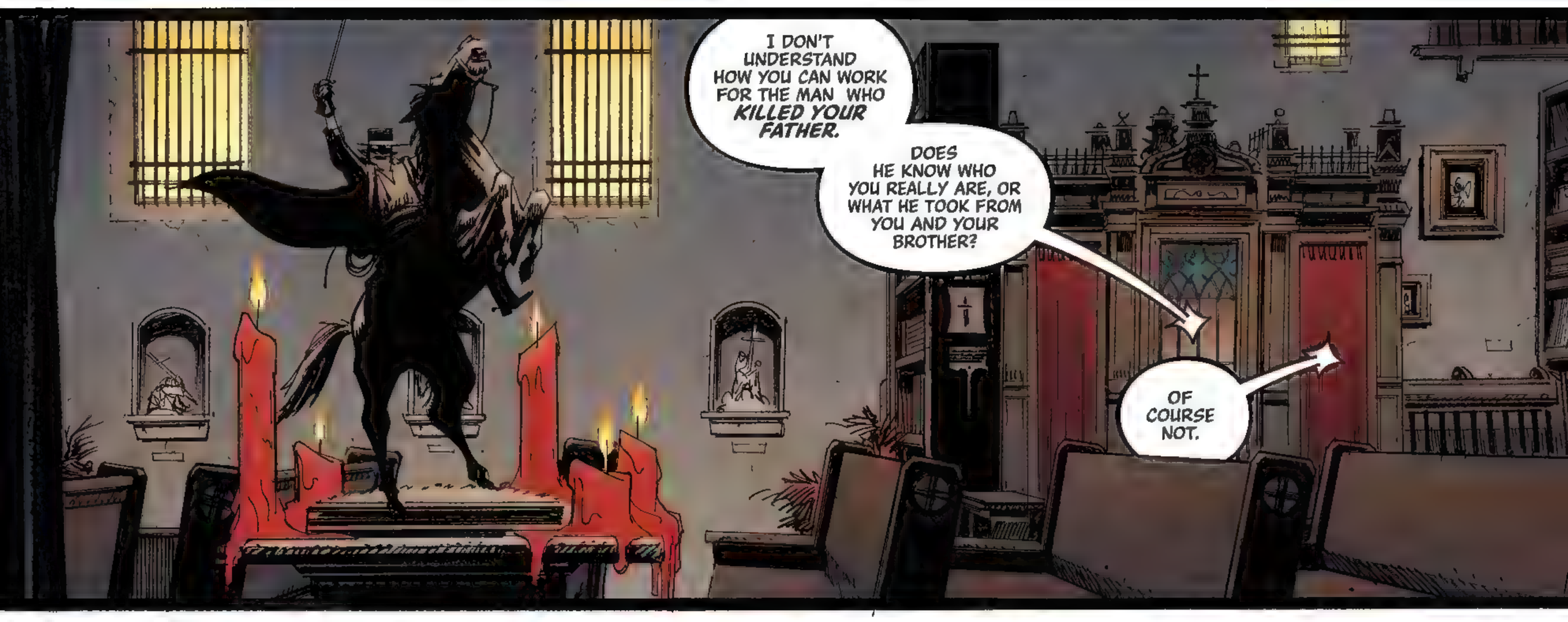



FORGIVE ME FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED.
I'VE LIED TO MY ROOMMATE ABOUT WHAT I DO FOR A LIVING. AND SHE STILL HASN'T FORGIVEN ME.

GOOD TO SEE YOU, ROSA.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP CALLING ESPERANZA YOUR ROOMMATE.
SLIDE
I DIDN'T THINK THE CHURCH WOULD BE ACCEPTING.

IN THE INTEREST OF MY FLOCK, I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO BREAK THE RULES.
SO... YOU'RE STILL WORKING FOR EL ROJO?


I'M ONLY HIS DRIVER. NOTHING MORE.
AS I REMIND YOU EACH WEEK, YOU'RE TURNING A BLIND EYE TO HIS SINS. DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU CULPABLE?
THE LAST THING MY FATHER EVER TAUGHT ME WAS THAT A BLIND EYE IS BETTER THAN A SLIT THROAT.

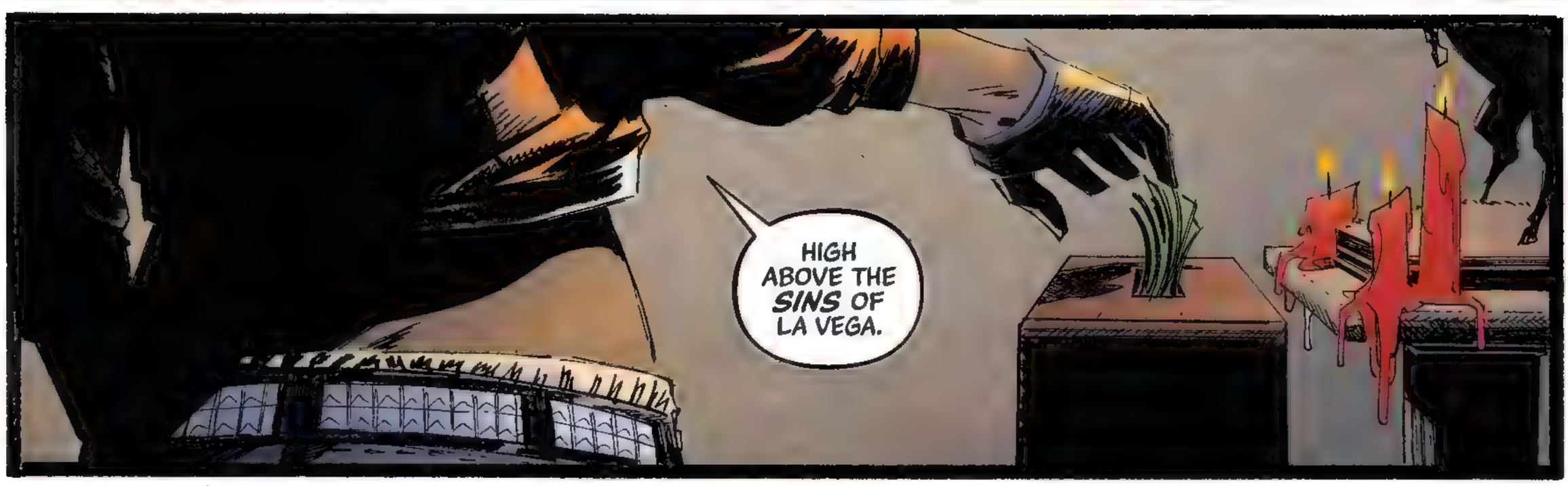

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN WORK FOR THE MAN WHO KILLED YOUR FATHER.
DOES HE KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE, OR WHAT HE TOOK FROM YOU AND YOUR BROTHER?
OF COURSE NOT.

HOW IS DIEGO? YOU STILL VISIT HIM AND ALEJANDRO AT THE CASTILLO EACH WEEK?
HE STILL HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE YOUR FATHER DIED.

YOU KNOW, THIS DIA DE LOS MUERTOS WILL BE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH, ROSA.
MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU SAW YOUR BROTHER AGAIN. FINALLY GOT TO KNOW HIM--
HE'S BETTER OFF NOT REMEMBERING ME. I WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE HIS CONDITION ANY WORSE.

AND LIKE YOU SAID, I CARRY THE SINS OF EL ROJO. I WON'T EXPOSE HIM TO THAT.

LET DIEGO LIVE IN A FANTASY WORLD WITH HIS ADOPTED FATHER, IN THE SAFETY OF THE CASTILLO.

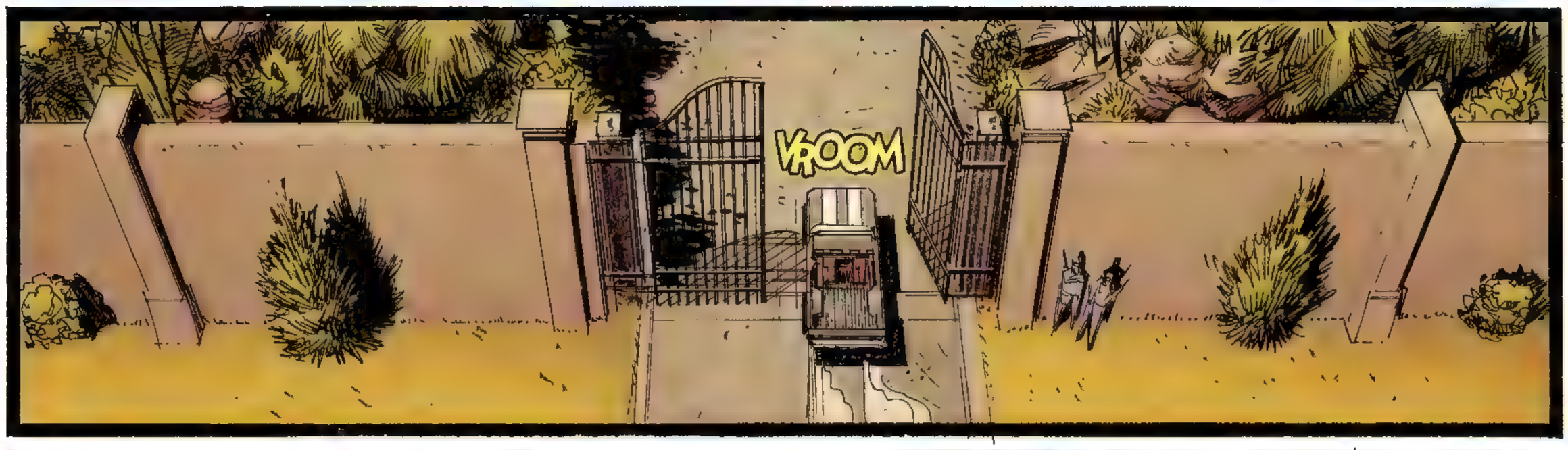

HIGH ABOVE THE SINS OF LA VEGA.

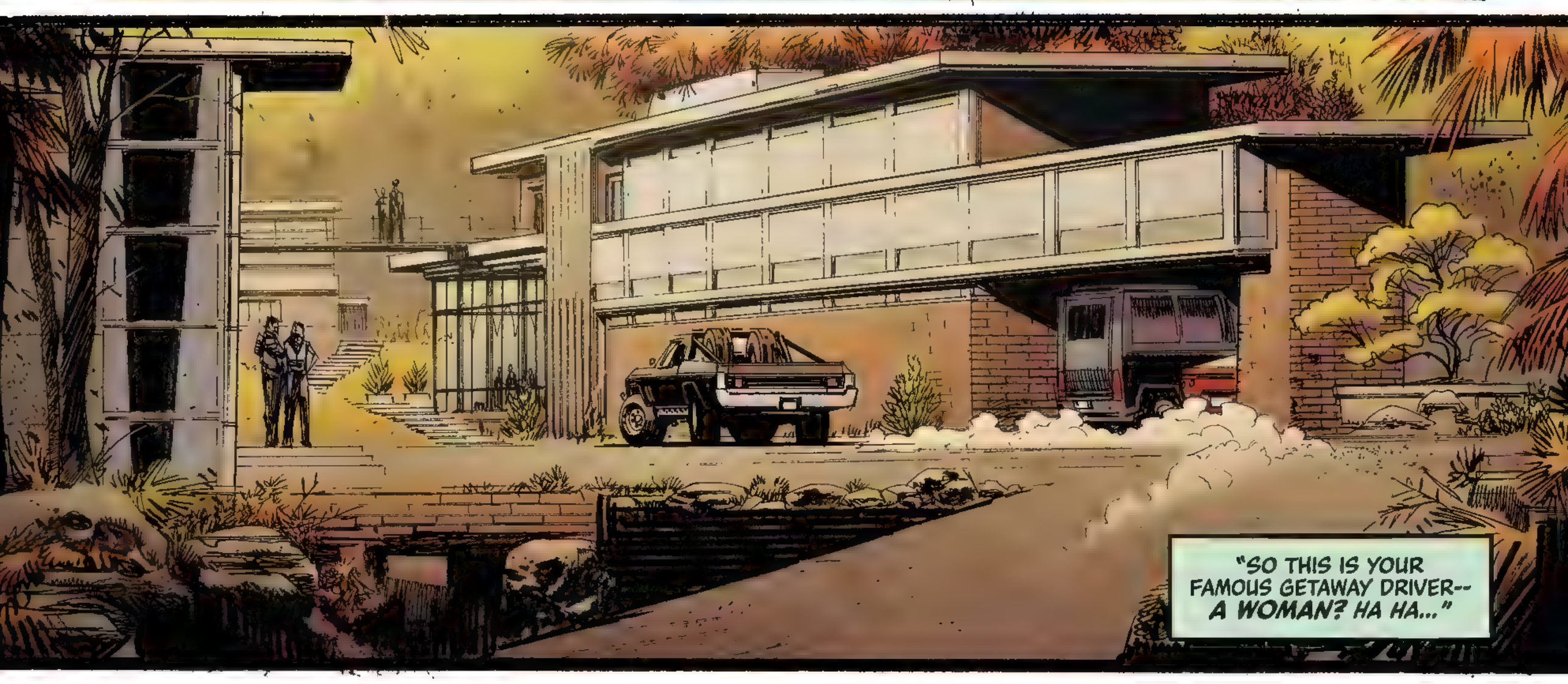
KONSTANTINE
SHARKOV

MORNING.
SAME DELIVERIES AND PICK UPS?
CHANGE OF PLAN FOR TODAY. BOSS WANTS TO SEE US AT HIS PLACE.

...
WHAT FOR?

YOU KNOW ME.
I DON'T ASK.


VROOM


"SO THIS IS YOUR FAMOUS GETAWAY DRIVER-- A WOMAN? HA HA..."

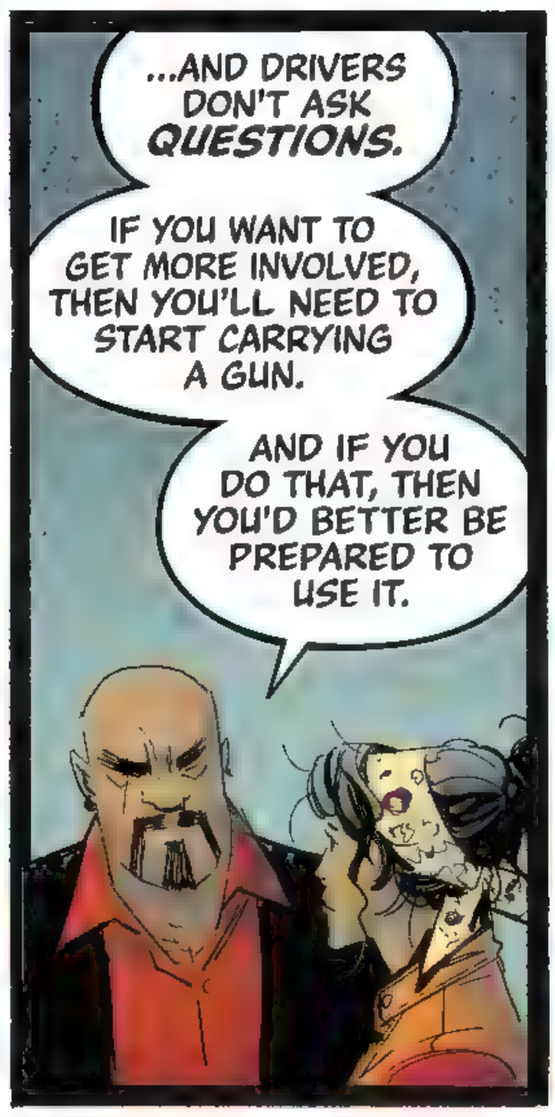
...I DON'T THINK YOU'RE UTILIZING HER TRUE TALENTS, *SEÑOR* ROJO.

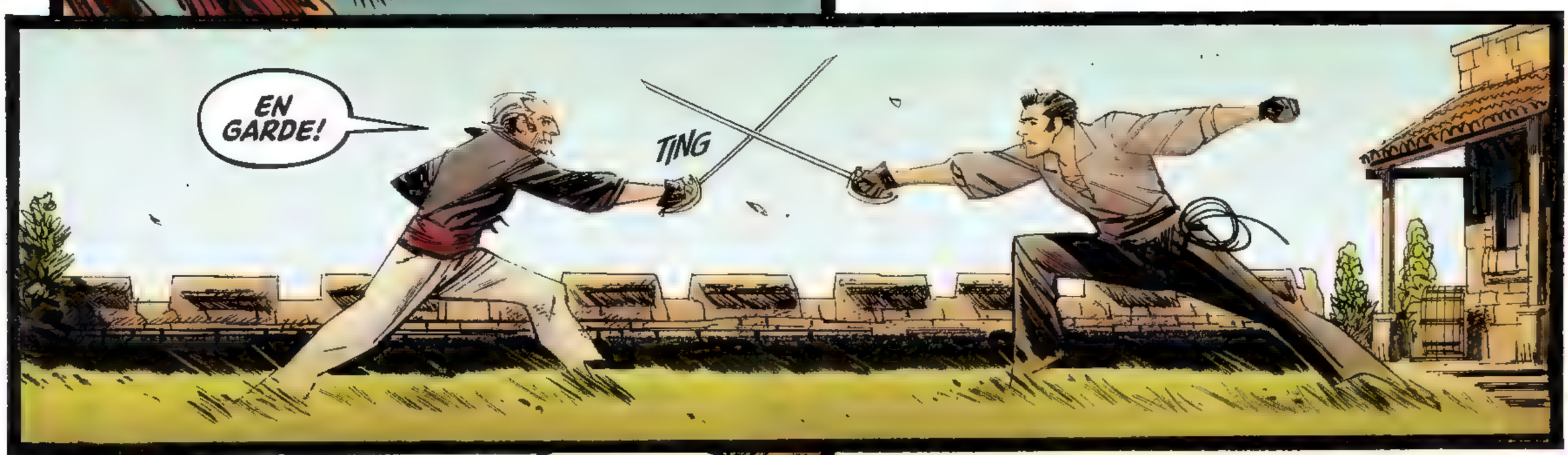
ROSA'S ONE OF MY BEST MEN--BEEN LOYAL AND DEPENDABLE FOR OVER A DECADE. SAVED OUR LIVES TWICE IN THE LAST YEAR ALONE--ONCE FROM THE ***COLOMBIANS,*** AND ONCE FROM THE ***DEA.***

TRUST ME, *SEÑOR* GARCIA, WE WANT HER BEHIND THE WHEEL. AND I WON'T STAND FOR ANY MAN SUGGESTING OTHERWISE.

AS YOU CAN SEE, TREJO IS VERY ***PROTECTIVE*** OF ROSA.

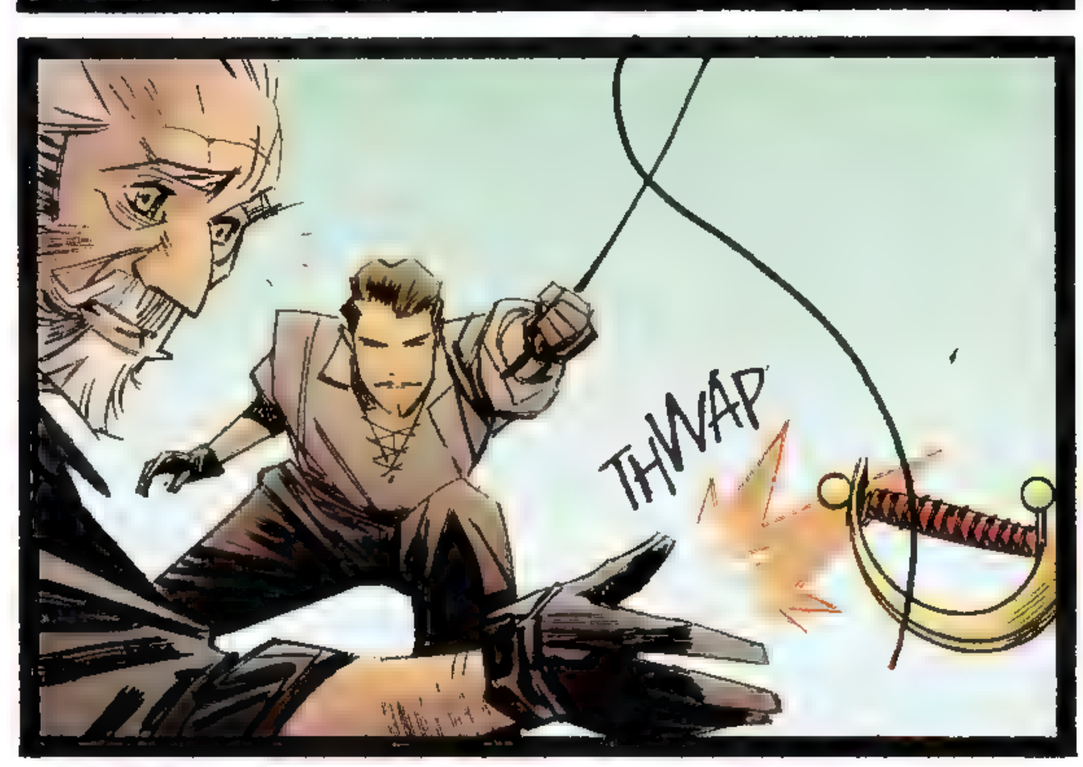
YOU ASKED TO SEE US, ***SEÑOR ROJO?***




EN GARDE!
TING

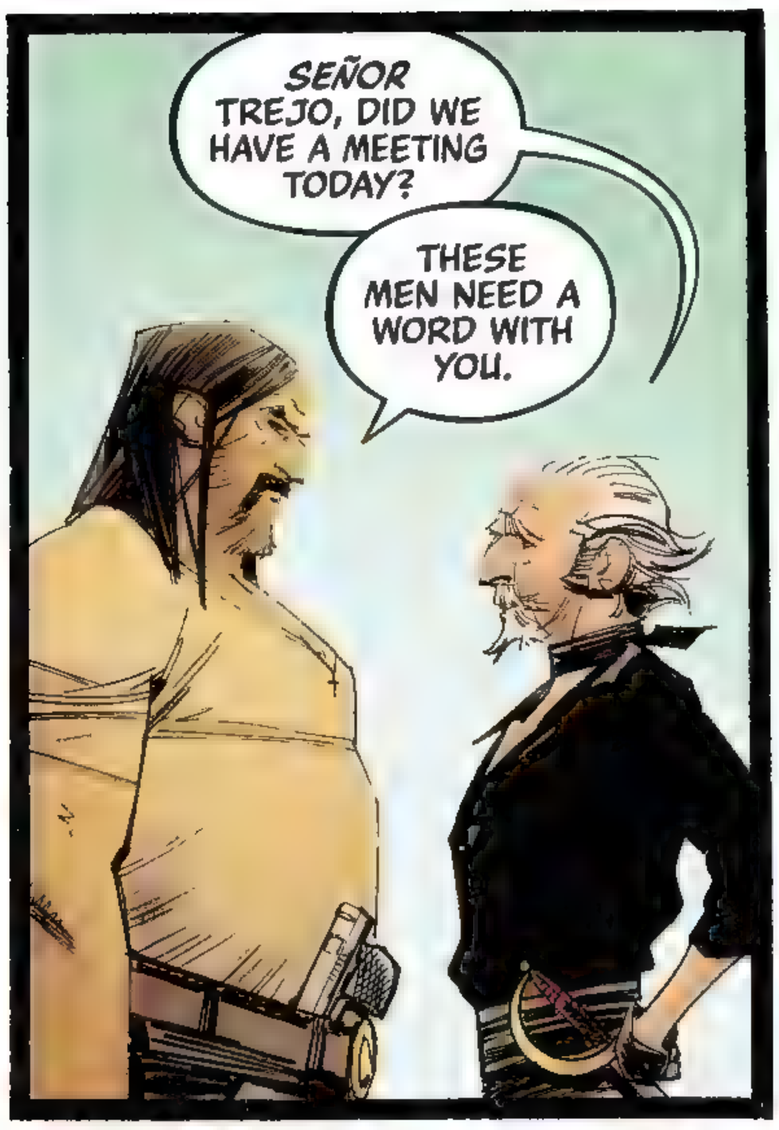
YOU'RE USING THE ITALIAN TECHNIQUE? YOU'RE A TRAITOR TO YOUR SPANISH ROOTS, DIEGO!
THERE'S A REASON WHY CARRANZA REINVENTED WHAT AGRIPPA HAD DONE--IT WAS BETTER! MORE FOCUS ON GEOMETRY AND INTELLECT OVER THE CLUMSIER TECHNIQUE OF COMMON FENCING.

YOU SEE?
THAT'S WHY ZORRO WAS NEVER DEFEATED IN COMBAT--HE TRAINED IN LA VERDADERA DESTREZA.
TING


THWAP

HA!
BUT NEITHER OF THEM EVER USED A WHIP. ONLY ZORRO!

HMM. I WASN'T EXPECTING ANYONE.
GO AND FEED THE FOXES, DIEGO.


SEÑOR TREJO, DID WE HAVE A MEETING TODAY?
THESE MEN NEED A WORD WITH YOU.

...
AND WHO ARE THESE MEN?
THEY'RE FROM OUT-OF-TOWN.

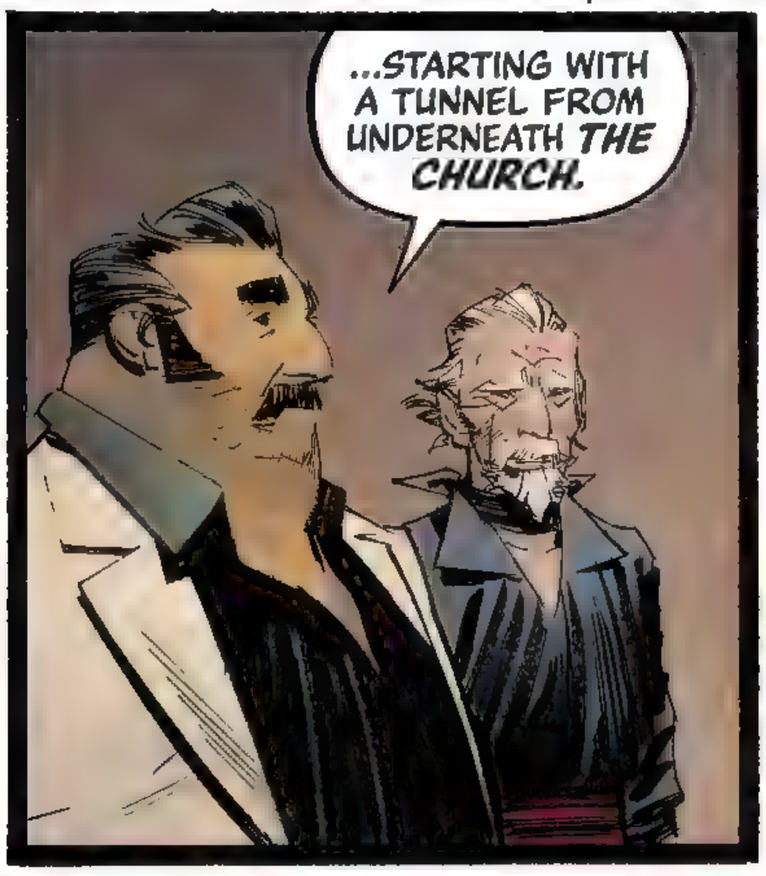
OH, I SEE.
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?

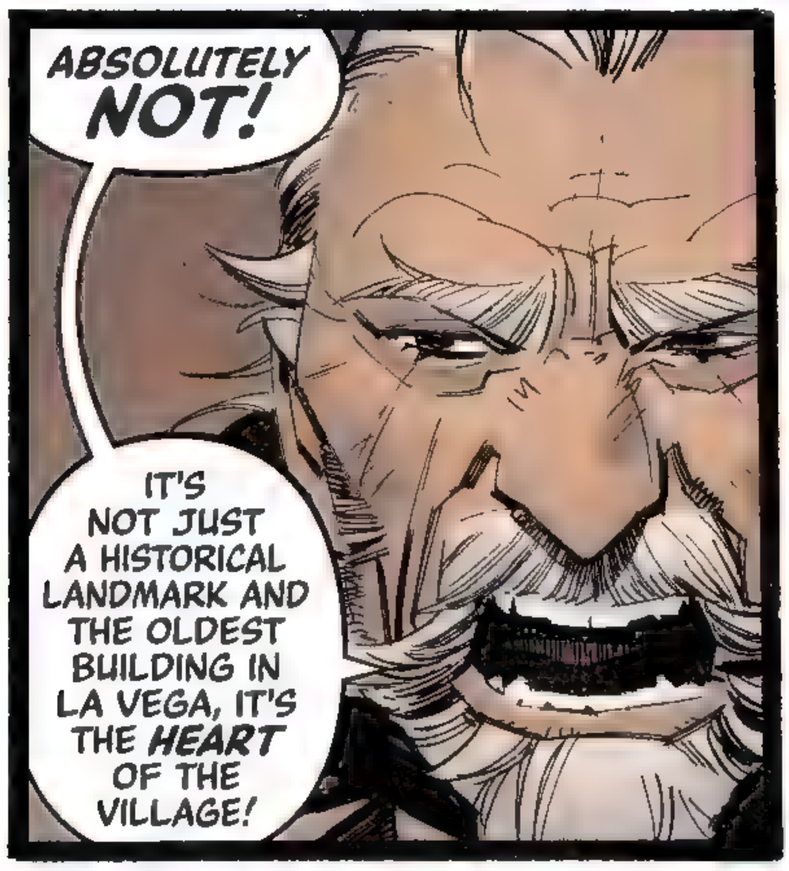
THAT'S UP TO YOU.
GARCIA--
--NOT OUT HERE. LET'S GO INSIDE.

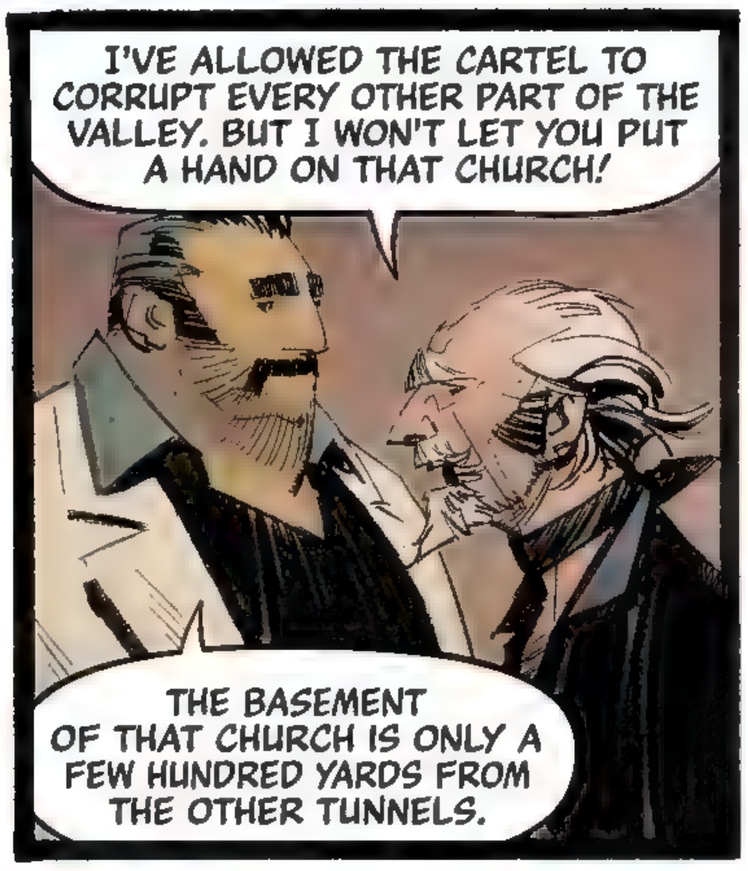
FLICK FLICK

:GASP!:

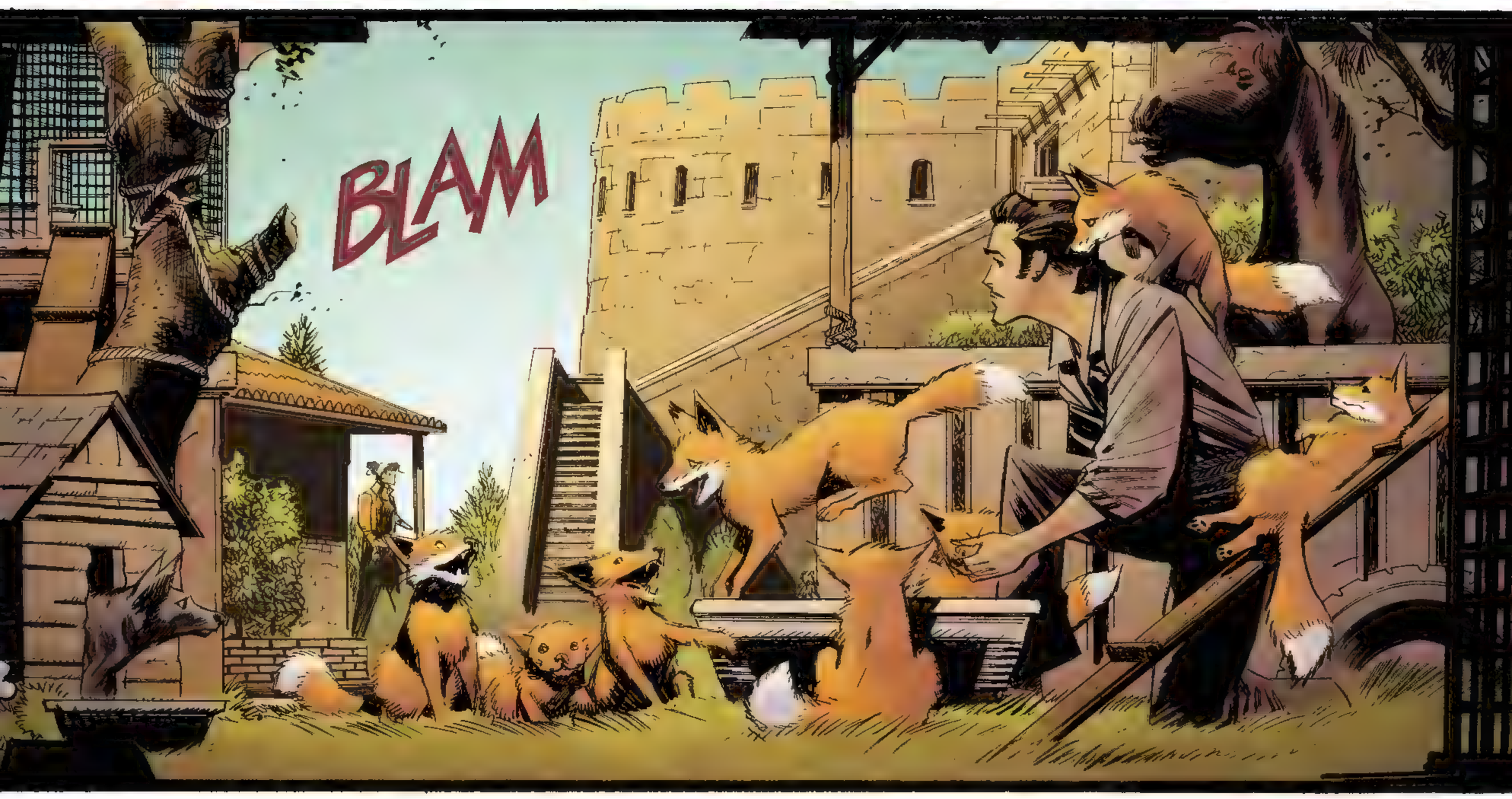
THE DEA HAS UNCOVERED SOME OF THE SMUGGLING ROUTES OUT OF THE VALLEY, SO WE'RE LOSING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EACH WEEK.
WE NEED TO BUILD MORE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THAT'S SIMPLE ENOUGH. I CAN HAVE MEN BEGIN WORK IMMEDIATELY.


...STARTING WITH A TUNNEL FROM UNDERNEATH THE CHURCH.


ABSOLUTELY NOT!
IT'S NOT JUST A HISTORICAL LANDMARK AND THE OLDEST BUILDING IN LA VEGA, IT'S THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE!


I'VE ALLOWED THE CARTEL TO CORRUPT EVERY OTHER PART OF THE VALLEY. BUT I WON'T LET YOU PUT A HAND ON THAT CHURCH!
THE BASEMENT OF THAT CHURCH IS ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE OTHER TUNNELS.

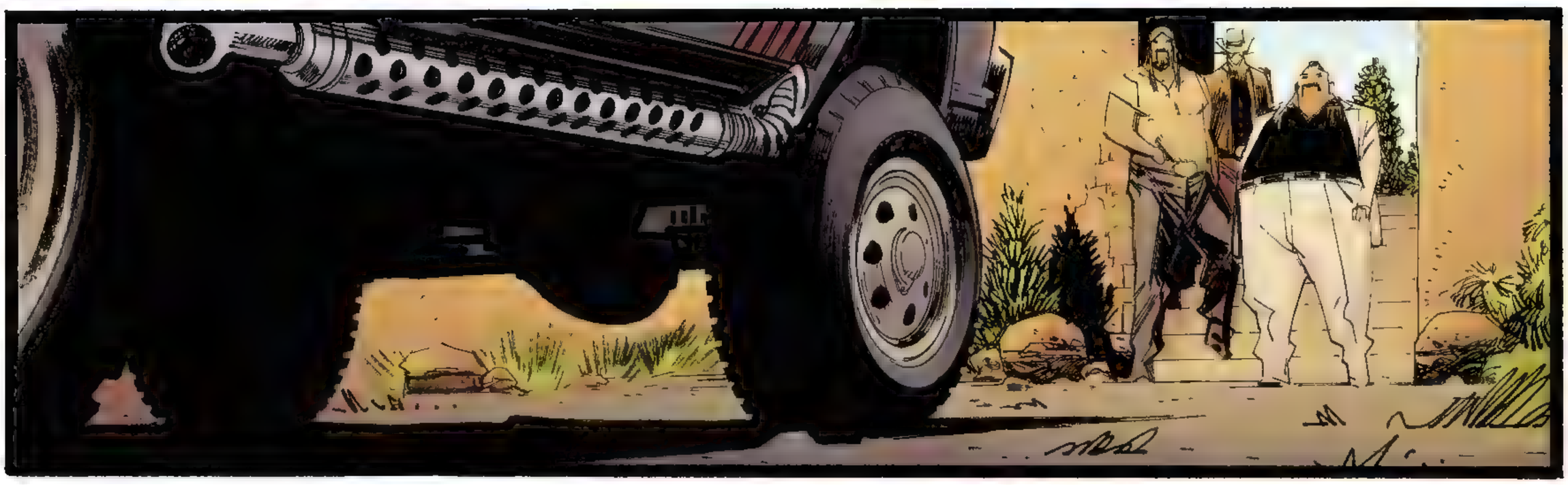
EL ROJO AND I HAD A DEAL! THE CHURCH WAS OFF THE TABLE--
ALEJANDRO, DON'T!
WE'RE CHANGING THE DEAL.


BLAM

DIEGO, NO!
BLAM BLAM

WHUDD

IF THOSE MEN SEE YOU, THEY'LL KILL YOU AS WELL!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!



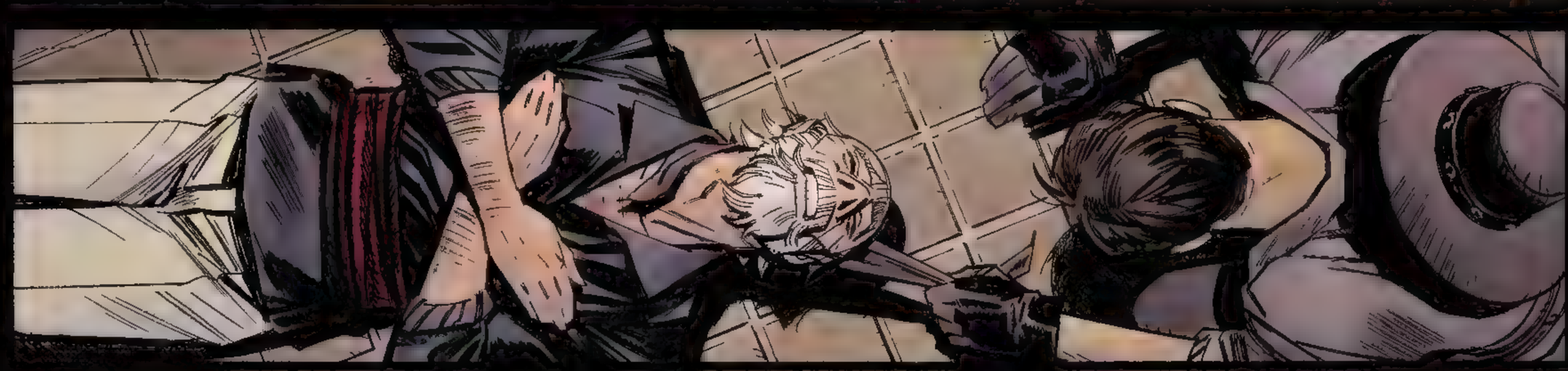
WHAT HAPPENED?!
EVERYTHING OKAY?
GET IN THE CAR.

I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY.

:GASP:
DIEGO... MY SON...
HERE-- TAKE THIS SWORD AND LOOK AFTER IT...
...IT'S VERY SPECIAL, BECAUSE IT ONCE BELONGED...
...TO ZORRO.
...I WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO YOUR FATHER ONE DAY, BUT INSTEAD...
...I'M GIVING IT TO YOU.
HIS SPIRIT NOW FLOWS THROUGH YOU...
DIEGO... DE LA... VEGA...

SHINK

PULL!



TIE!

CLICK

WHAT'S THAT NOISE? IS THAT A HORSE?

THE RIDER!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S DRESSED AS...

...EL ZORRO!

SHOOT HIM!

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM
BLAM

STAB

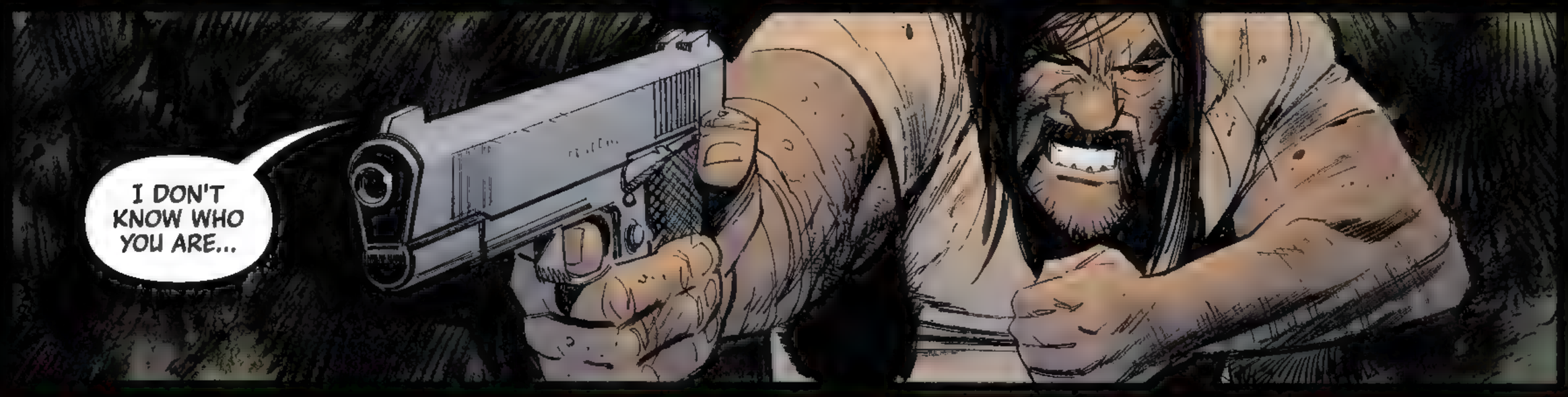
ARGH!

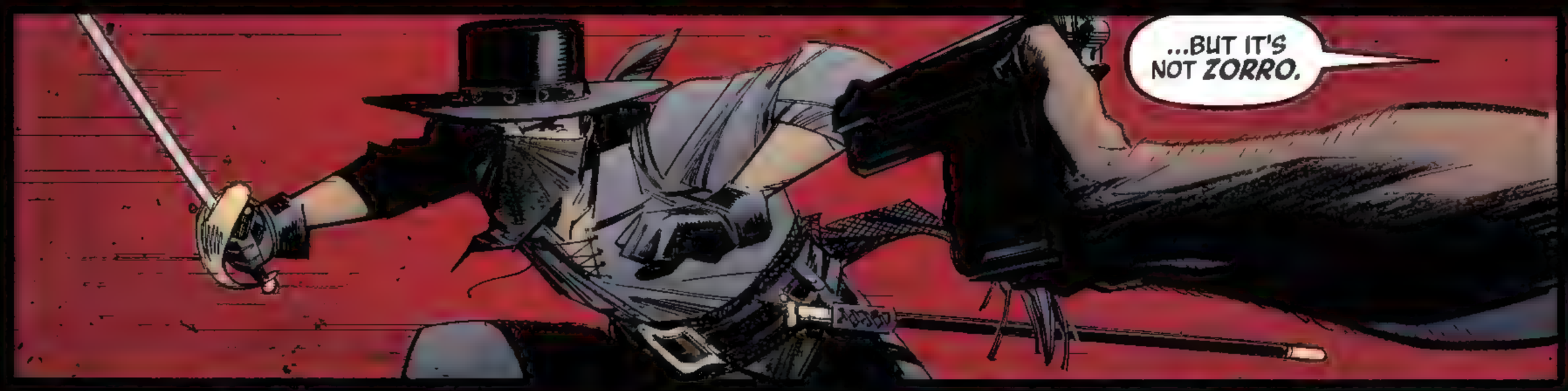
WHUD

THOKK

STAB

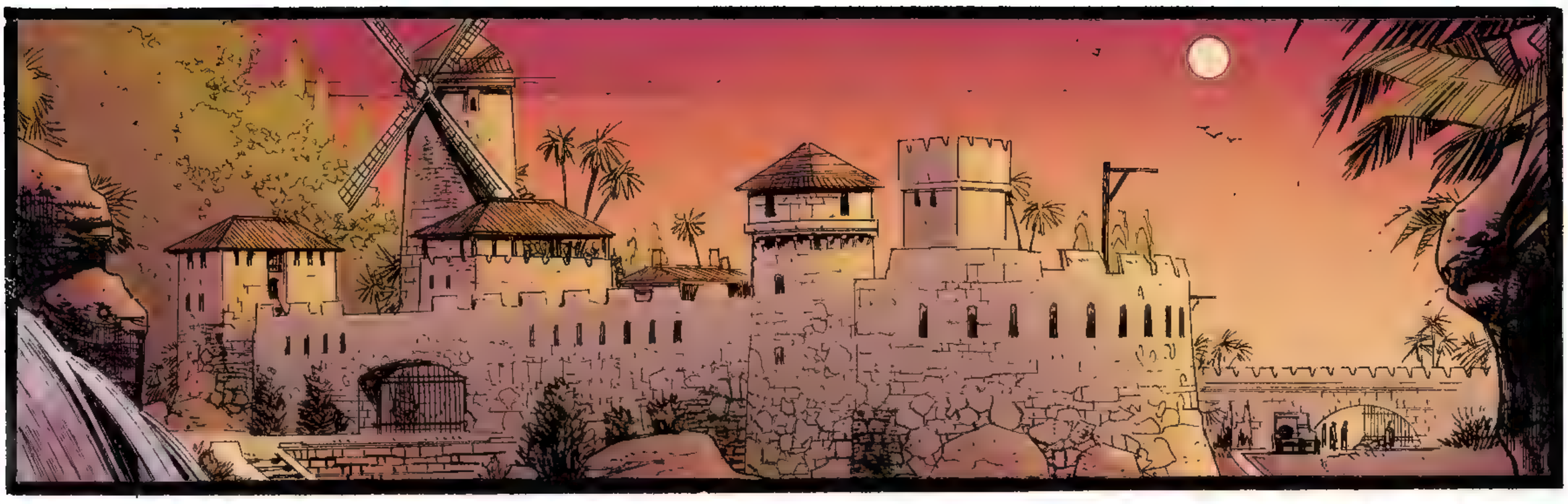
WHUDD


I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...


...BUT IT'S NOT ZORRO.

BLAM

DIEGO?!
WHAT THE HELL?
I AM NOT DIEGO--I AM EL ZORRO, THE SAVIOR OF LA VEGA!
AND THE DAY IS AT HAND WHEN YOU AND I WILL AVENGE THE DEATH OF OUR FATHER, DEAR ROSA!
YOU... KNOW WHO I AM? BUT HOW...
WE MUST BURY ALEJANDRO.
THEN WE CAN BEGIN PLANS TO FREE LA VEGA FROM THE REST OF THESE SCOUNDRELS!
NO--WE NEED TO GET OUT OF LA VEGA BEFORE THE NARCOS KILL US! GET INTO THE CAR.
A...CAR? YOU REFER TO THIS STRANGE, HORSELESS CARRIAGE?
I'M NOT GETTING INSIDE THAT SORCEROUS CONTRAPTION!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU--OR WHY YOU'RE TALKING LIKE THAT--BUT YOU NEED TO DO EXACTLY WHAT I TELL YOU.
IF YOU KNOW I'M YOUR SISTER, THEN YOU KNOW I WANT TO PROTECT YOU!
SO YOU NEED TO TRUST ME.
HMM.
YOU MAKE A GOOD POINT, DEAR ROSA.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ONE LAST THING BEFORE WE DEPART...



YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD YOU.

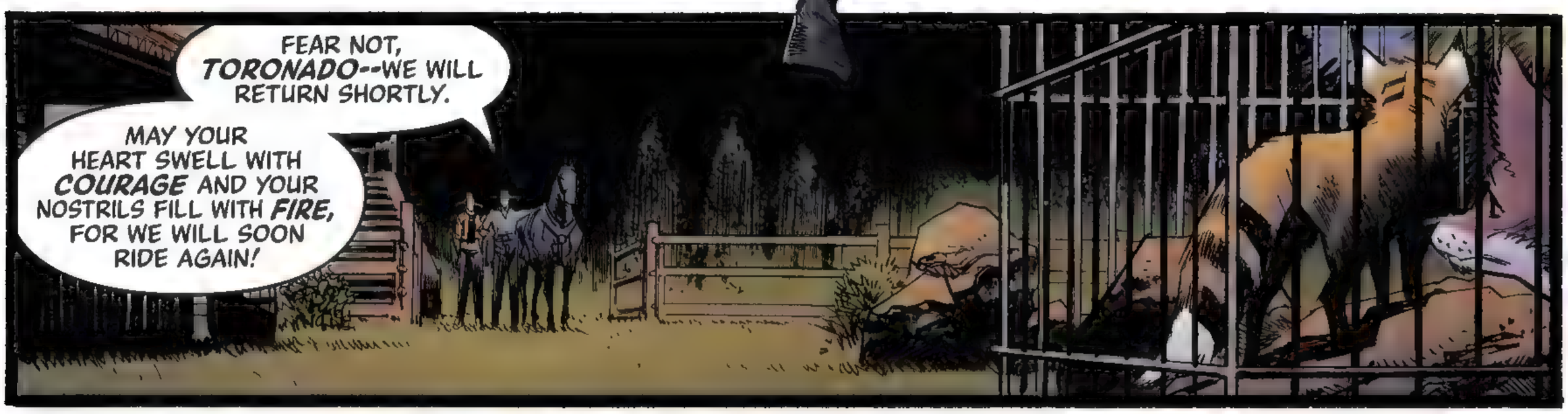
... WHERE'S ROSA?

BRING HER TO ME.

CHAPTER TWO

LIKE THE WIND, TORONADO! WE'VE NO TIME TO LOSE!
DIEGO, WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GOING?
AND WHY THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THAT?!

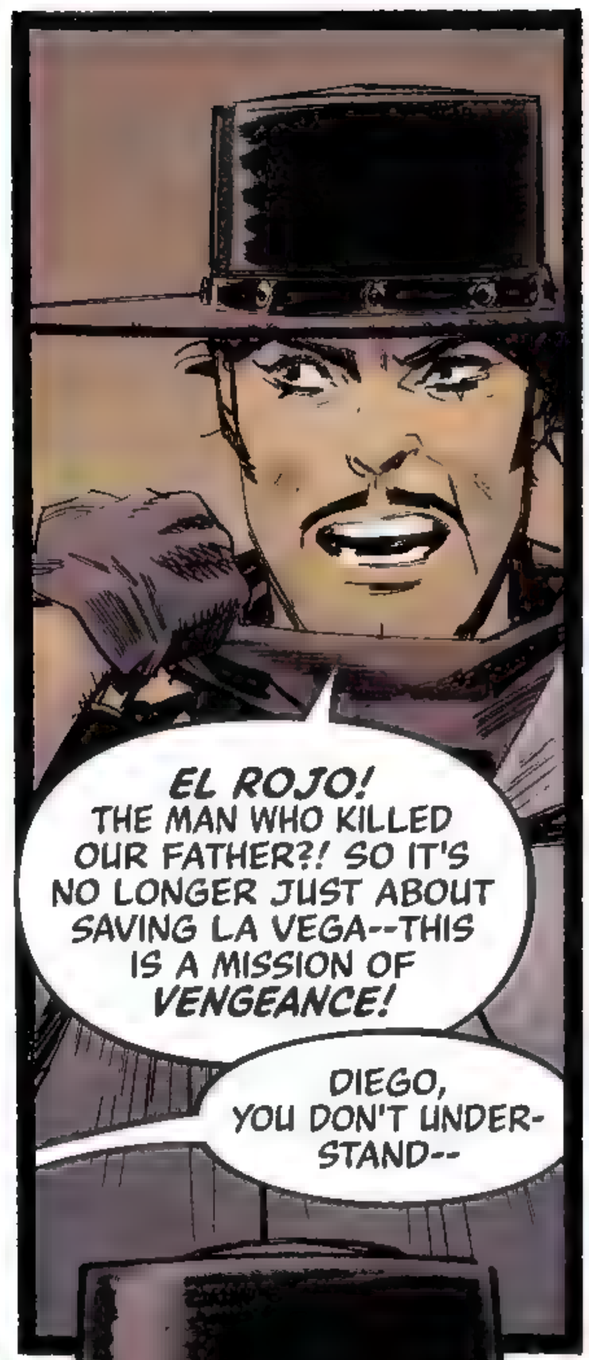
IT'LL BE HOURS BEFORE THE SUN RISES. UNTIL THEN, THE FATE OF THOSE DASTARDLY VILLAINS WILL GO UNNOTICED. WE MUST USE THIS TIME TO PROPERLY PREPARE!
WHEN TREJO AND THE OTHERS DON'T CALL IN, MORE NARCOS WILL COME LOOKING FOR THEM!
CALL IN? WE'RE MILES AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE--NO MAN COULD CALL THAT DISTANCE!


FEAR NOT, TORONADO--WE WILL RETURN SHORTLY.
MAY YOUR HEART SWELL WITH COURAGE AND YOUR NOSTRILS FILL WITH FIRE, FOR WE WILL SOON RIDE AGAIN!

BANDIDO-- YOU'RE COMING WITH ME. ROSA AND I WILL NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU'RE BRINGING A FOX?!
OF COURSE-- BANDIDO IS MY OLDEST COMPANION!
DO YOU EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT KIND OF DANGER WE'RE IN?
I UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON, DEAR ROSA. NOT ONLY ARE WE IN DANGER, BUT SO IS LA VEGA.
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN THE VILLAGE CAN COUNT ON...

ZORRO
FIESTA DEL ZORRO
¡EL ZORRO!
ALAIN DELON
ZORRO
OH MY GOD.
I KNEW ALEJANDRO WAS PASSIONATE, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS A FANATIC.

DIEGO, LISTEN TO ME--I DON'T KNOW WHAT ALEJANDRO HAS BEEN TELLING YOU, BUT IT'S NOT THE 1800s, AND YOU'RE NOT A CAPED CRUSADER!
EL ROJO HAS AN ARMY, WHICH IS WHY WE NEED TO FLEE!


EL ROJO! THE MAN WHO KILLED OUR FATHER?! SO IT'S NO LONGER JUST ABOUT SAVING LA VEGA--THIS IS A MISSION OF VENGEANCE!
DIEGO, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND--

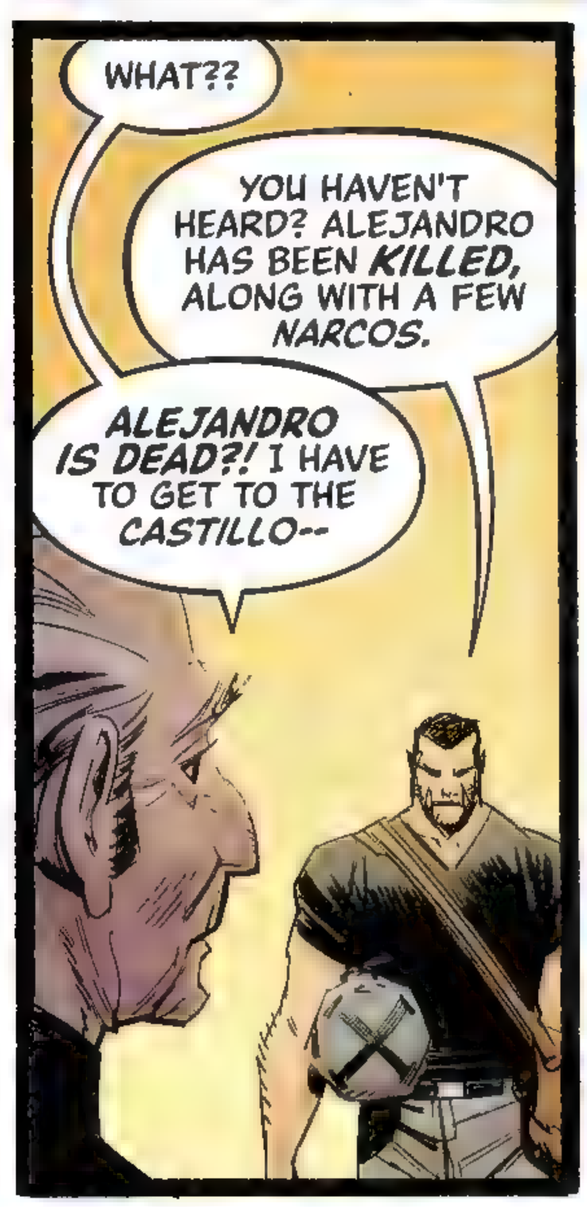
STOPPING EL ROJO IS OUR DESTINY! SO WE SHALL LEAD A REBELLION--ONCE THE VILLAGERS SEE ZORRO, THEY'LL RISE UP AND HELP US RESTORE PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO THE VALLEY!
NO, WE'RE GETTING INTO MY CAR AND GETTING THE HELL OUT OF HERE--

BUT GOD IS CALLING ON US, ROSA! THIS IS HIS PLAN, SET IN MOTION THE DAY OUR FATHER DIED.
HE SPARED OUR LIVES AND PREPARED US EACH FOR THIS VERY MOMENT, SO THAT WE CAN CORRECT THE SINS OF THE RED DEVIL, EL ROJO.
GOD HAS GIVEN ME THE WILL...
...ALEJANDRO HAS TAUGHT ME THE SKILLS...
...SO NOW IT'S UP TO YOU TO SHOW ME THE WAY.

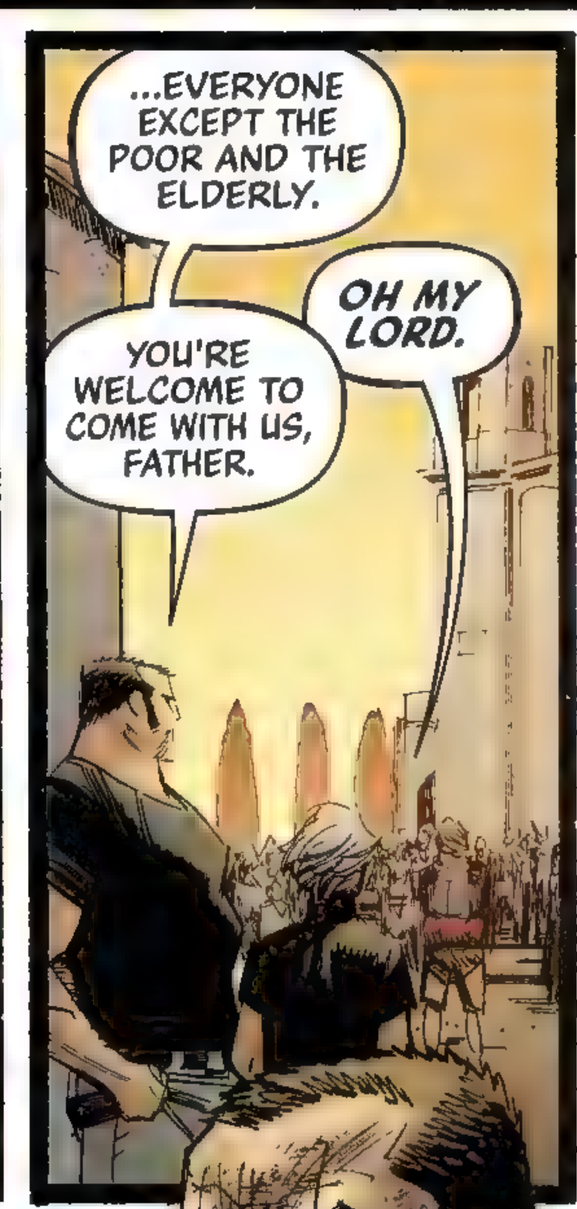
...
FINE. WHATEVER.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE VILLAGE AND HELP YOU LEAD A REBELLION.

JUST GET INTO THE CAR.

TOMÁS? YOU'RE NOT OPENING THE BODEGA?
SORRY, FATHER--BUT I'M NOT EXPOSING MY FAMILY TO ANOTHER WAR.


WHAT??
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD? ALEJANDRO HAS BEEN KILLED, ALONG WITH A FEW NARCOS.
ALEJANDRO IS DEAD?! I HAVE TO GET TO THE CASTILLO--

DIEGO ISN'T THERE--APPARENTLY HE AND ROSA FLED.
WHAT HAPPENED?
NOT REALLY SURE. BUT EVERYONE IS LEAVING BEFORE ROJO CLOSES THE ROAD OUT OF THE VALLEY...


...EVERYONE EXCEPT THE POOR AND THE ELDERLY.
OH MY LORD.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME WITH US, FATHER.

I CAN'T. I'M NEEDED HERE.
THEN TAKE THE KEYS TO MY BODEGA--USE WHATEVER SUPPLIES YOU NEED.

I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE LEAVING, TOMÁS--YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO RUN FROM A FIGHT. WHAT IS IT YOUR MEN USED TO CALL YOU--EL CEMENTERIO?
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
YOU'RE STILL A COMMUNITY LEADER. AND PEOPLE WOULD HAVE MORE HOPE IF YOU STAYED.

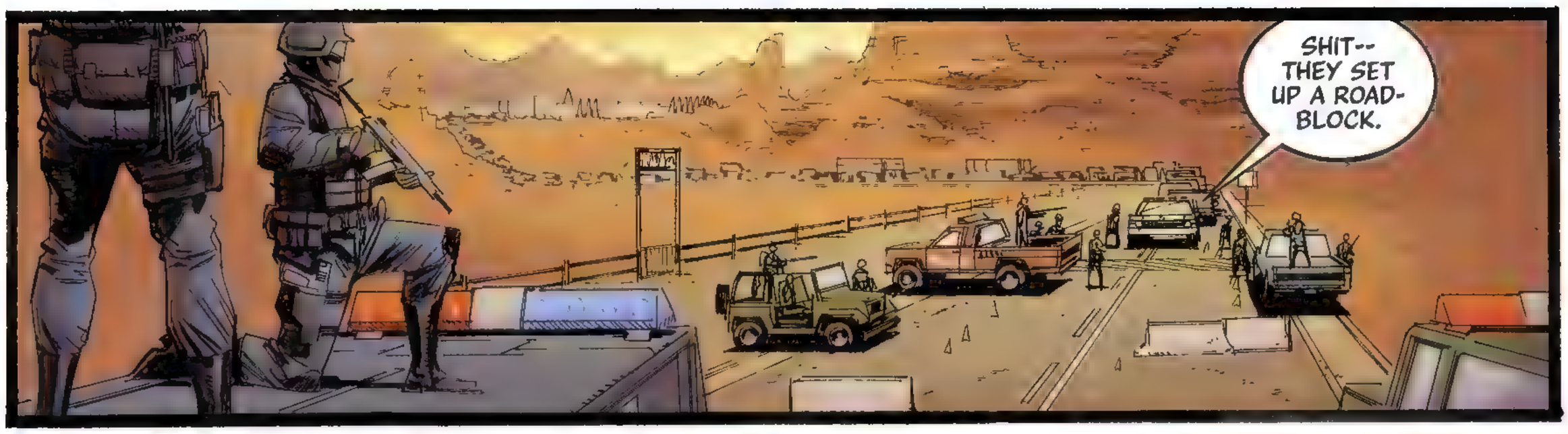
HOPE ISN'T MY JOB, FATHER.
IT'S YOURS.

MY FRIENDS, I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED. BUT WE'VE SEEN HARD TIMES BEFORE. AND GOD DID NOT ABANDON US.

WE'LL WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE YOUR NEEDS ARE MET. AND I'LL SEND WORD TO THE REST OF THE VILLAGE THAT WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AND SUPPLIES FOR EVERYONE.

BUT FIRST...

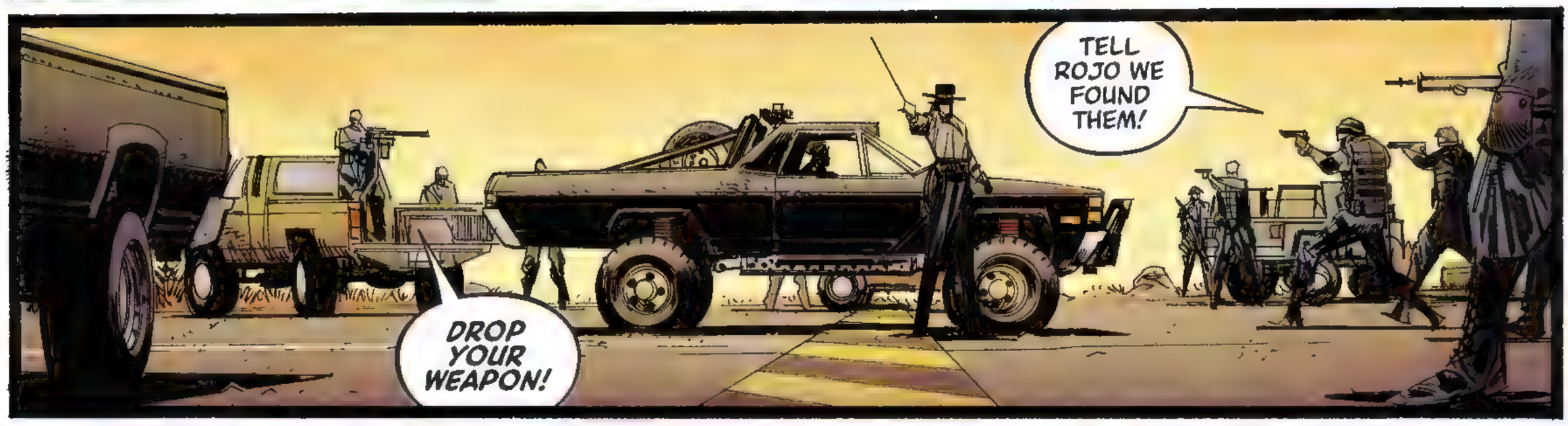
...LET US PRAY.

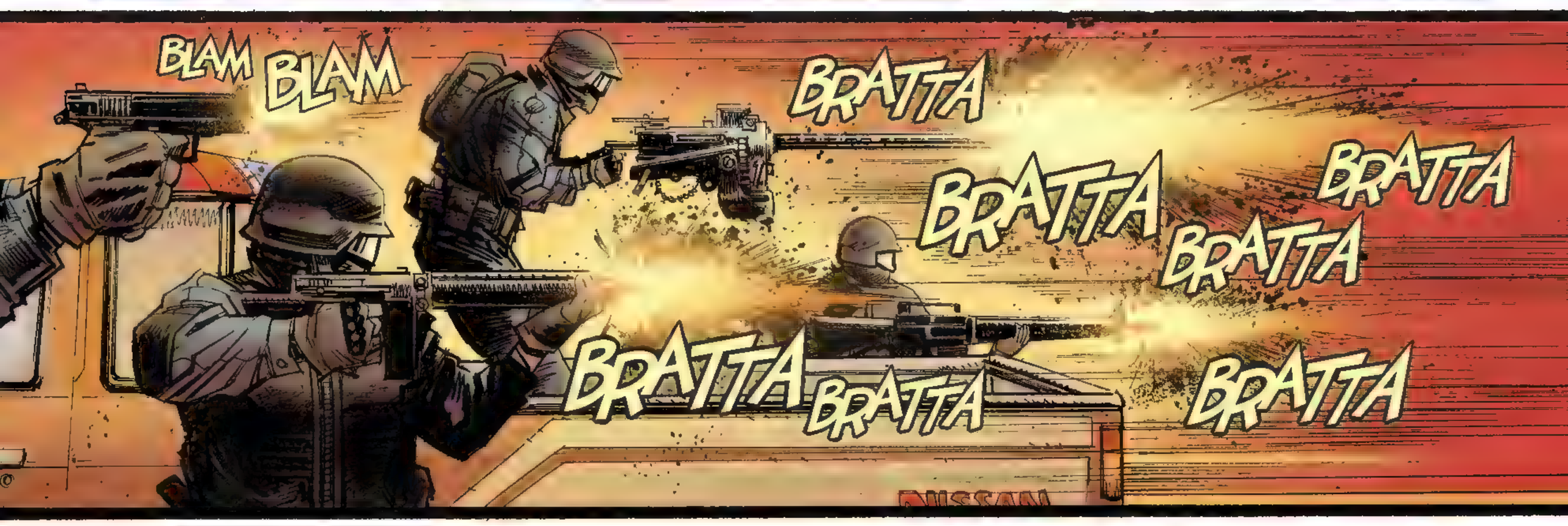

SHIT-- THEY SET UP A ROAD-BLOCK.

SOLDIERS IN LA VEGA ARE USUALLY HOSTILE TOWARD ZORRO.
I WAS HOPING WE COULD GET OUT BEFORE ROJO HAD THE POLICE CLOSE DOWN THE ROADS.

LEAVE?? I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING ME TO THE VILLAGE, ROSA! DON'T TELL ME IT WAS A RUSE--
NOT NOW, DIEGO!
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OF THEM...

...IT'S NOTHING ZORRO AND HIS SIDEKICK BANDIDO CAN'T HANDLE--
DIEGO, GET BACK INSIDE!


TELL ROJO WE FOUND THEM!
DROP YOUR WEAPON!


BLAM
BLAM
BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA
BRATTA
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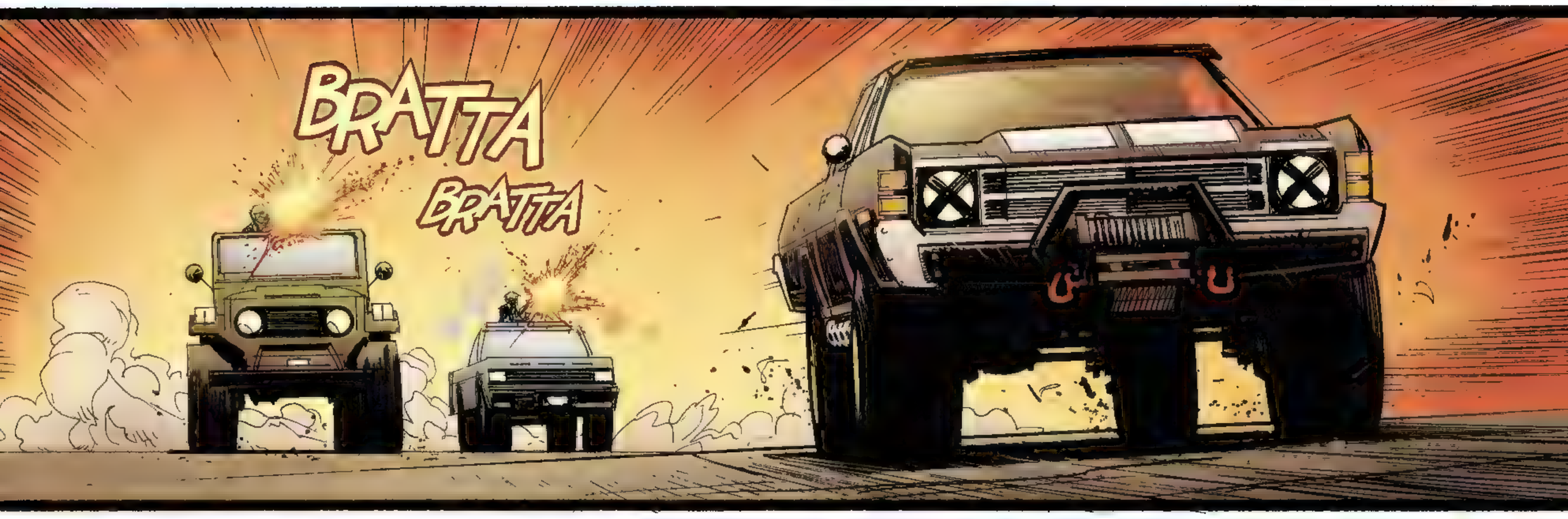
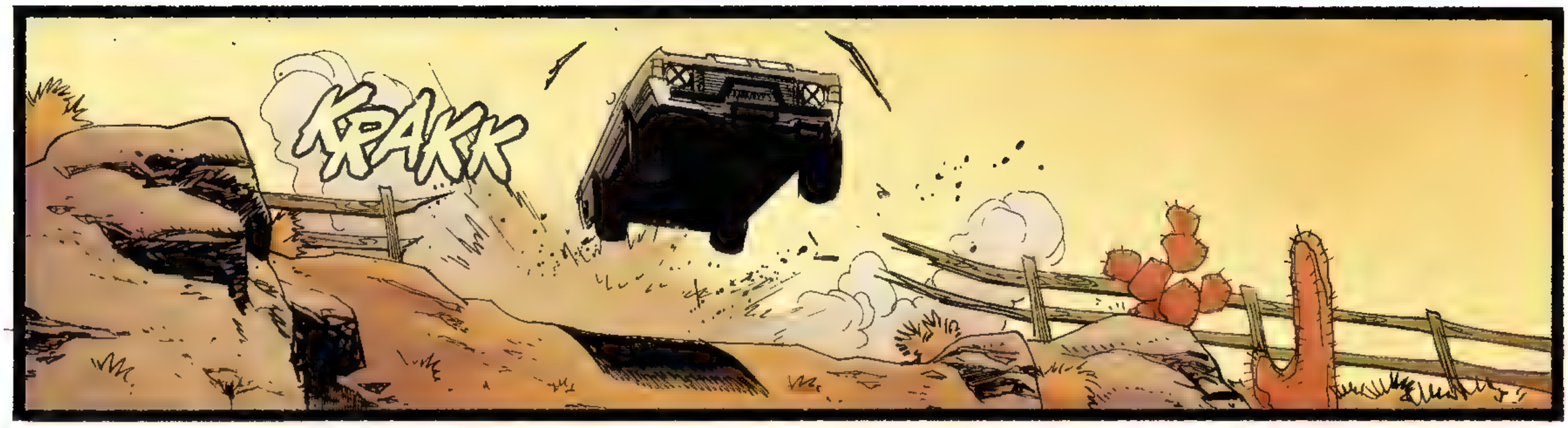
BRATTA
BRATTA

WHAT KIND OF MUSKETS ARE THESE?!
BIANG
BIANG
BIANG
STAY DOWN AND HOLD ON!
VROOM


BRATTA
BRATTA

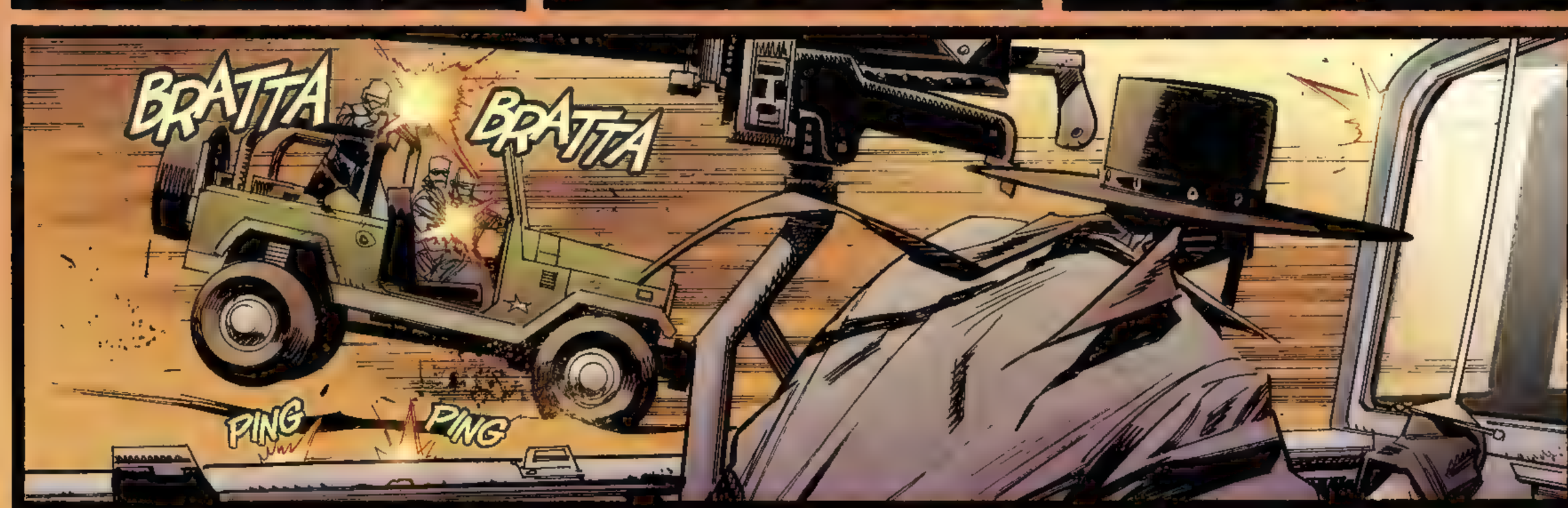

KRAKK

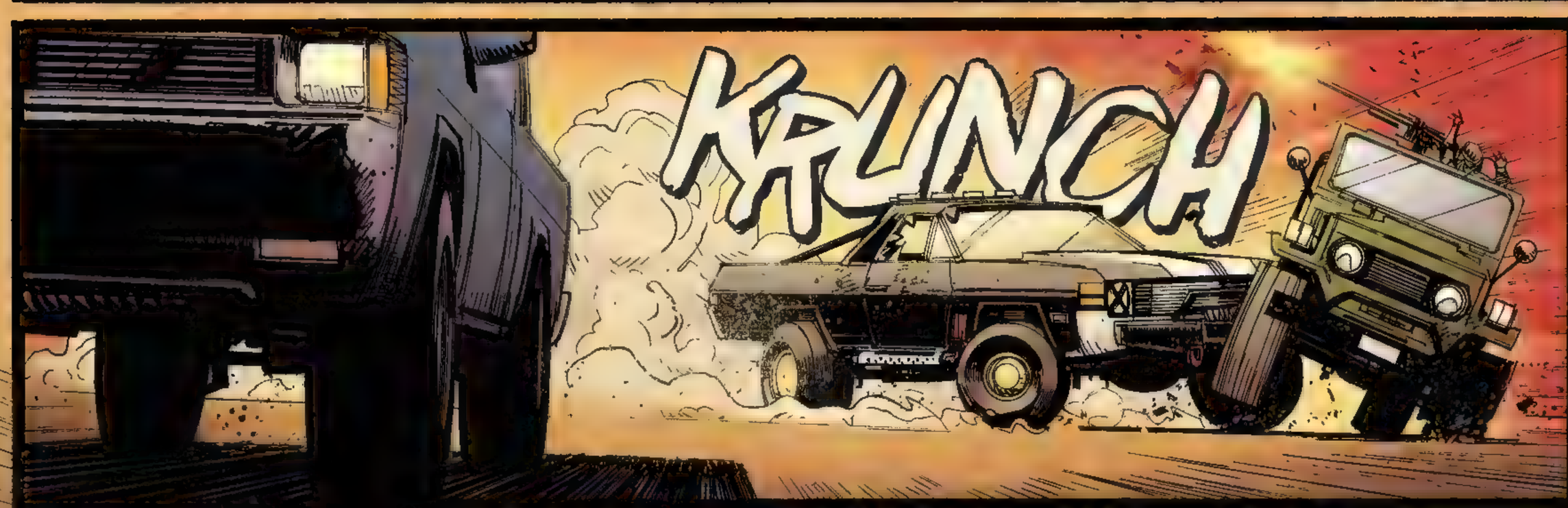
BRATTABRATTABRATTA
THWAP

WHUDD

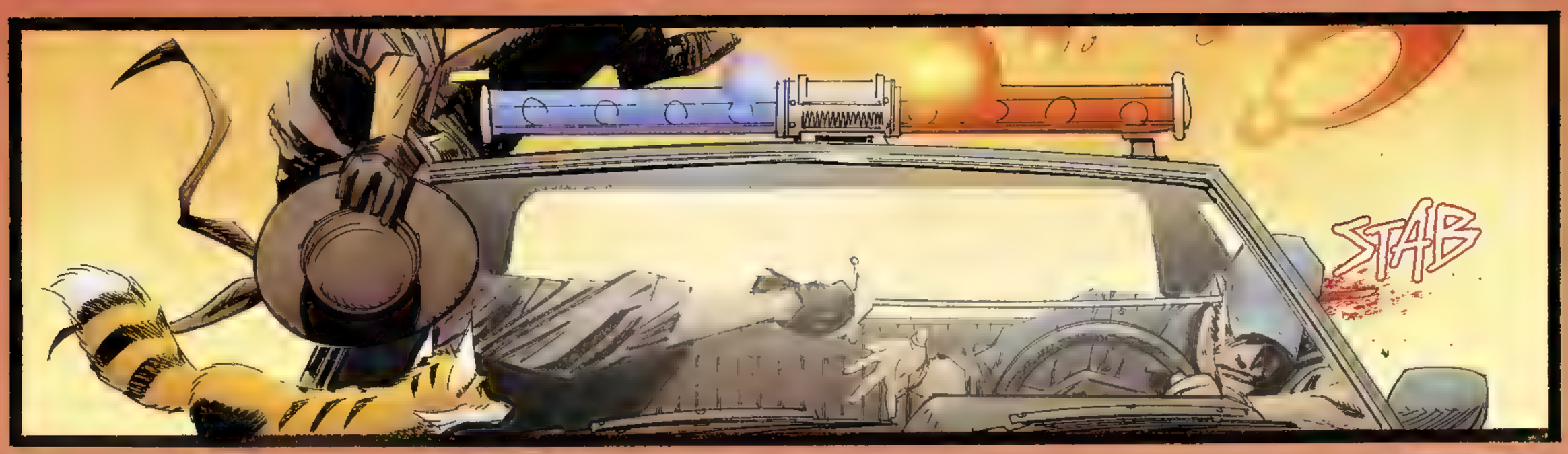
BRATTA
ARGH!

STAB
POLICIA


BRATTA
BRATTA
PING
PING


KRUNCH

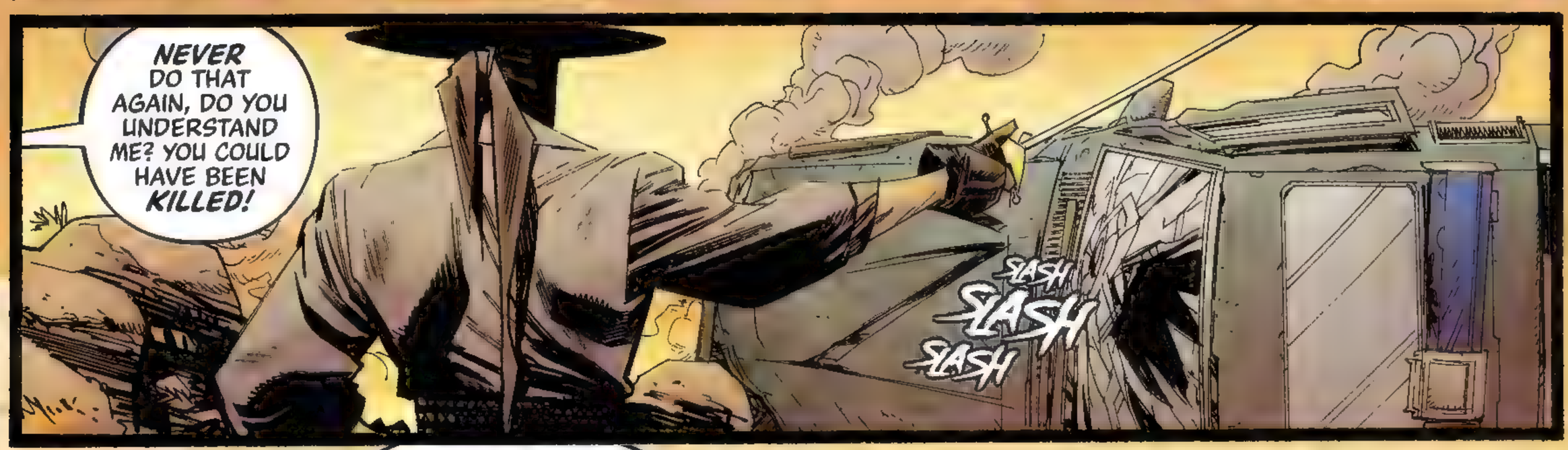
LOOK AT THAT, BANDIDO!
IT SEEMS BRAVERY AND CUNNING RUN IN THE FAMILY!
CRASH


STAB

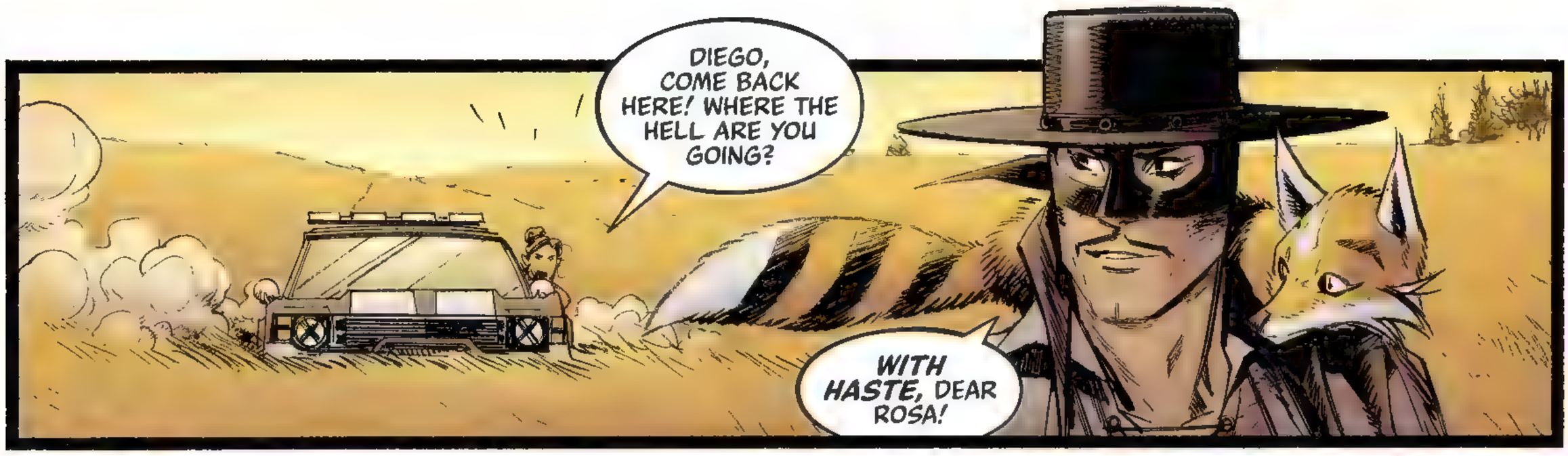
THIS WAY, BANDIDO!

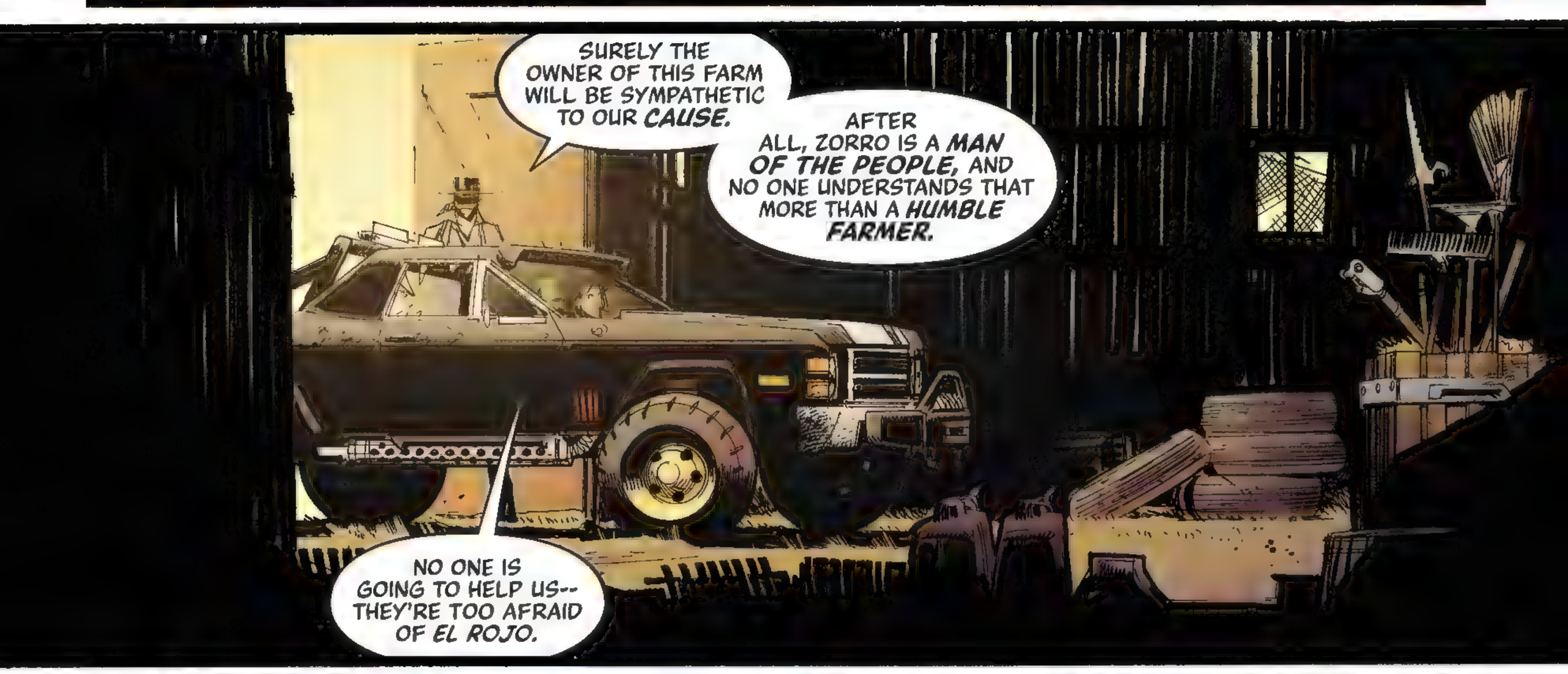
BOOM

DIEGO, ARE YOU OKAY?
BETTER THAN THOSE CROOKED MISCREANTS!


NEVER DO THAT AGAIN, DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME? YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED!
SLASH
SLASH
SLASH

WE MUST HIDE YOUR CARRIAGE-- NO DOUBT SOME OF THESE SOLDIERS WILL HAVE GIVEN THE ENTIRE GARRISON IT'S DESCRIPTION.
YOU'RE RIGHT--EVERY-ONE KNOWS WHAT MY CAR LOOKS LIKE--
DON'T WORRY-- I HAVE A PLAN!
TORNADO


DIEGO, COME BACK HERE! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GOING?
WITH HASTE, DEAR ROSA!

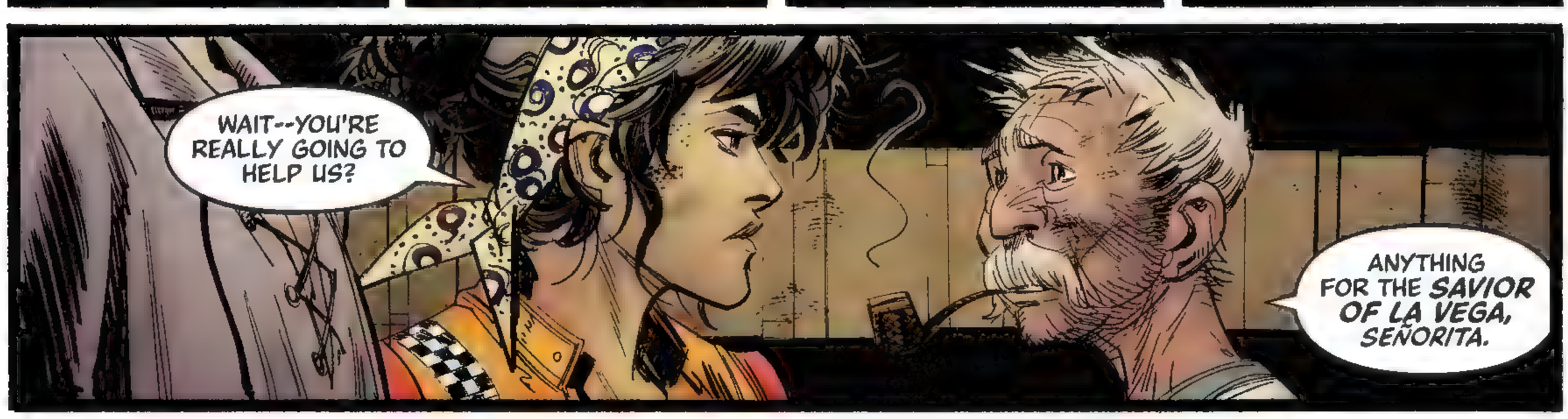

SURELY THE OWNER OF THIS FARM WILL BE SYMPATHETIC TO OUR CAUSE.
AFTER ALL, ZORRO IS A MAN OF THE PEOPLE, AND NO ONE UNDERSTANDS THAT MORE THAN A HUMBLE FARMER.
NO ONE IS GOING TO HELP US-- THEY'RE TOO AFRAID OF EL ROJO.

AH! AND THERE'S THE HUMBLE FARMER NOW.
WHAT SAY YOU, SIR--WILL YOU AID US IN OUR QUEST?

HE'S GOT A GUN-- GET BEHIND ME!
THERE'S NO NEED FOR ALARM, DEAR ROSA.

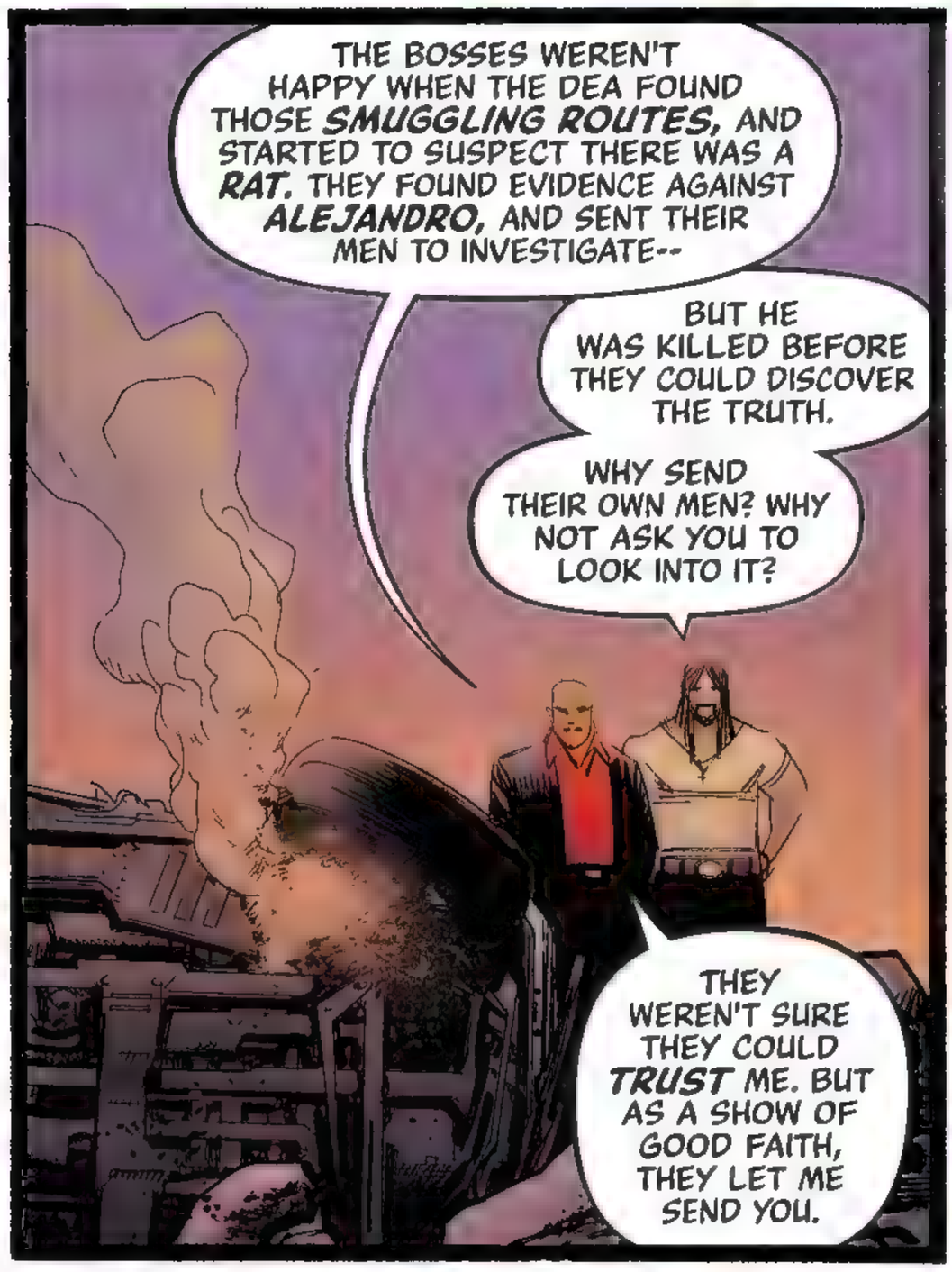
GOOD SIR, APOLOGIES FOR THE INTRUSION. BUT FEAR NOT, FOR IT IS I, EL ZORRO.
WE WERE HOPING YOU WOULD JOIN THE REBELLION AGAINST EL ROJO BY LETTING US HIDE OUT UNTIL THIS EVENING--

DIEGO, YOU CAN'T JUST GO UP TO PEOPLE AS ZORRO AND EXPECT THEM TO--
STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE, SEÑOR ZORRO. I'LL BRING YOU SOME WATER.
BLESS YOU, KIND SIR.

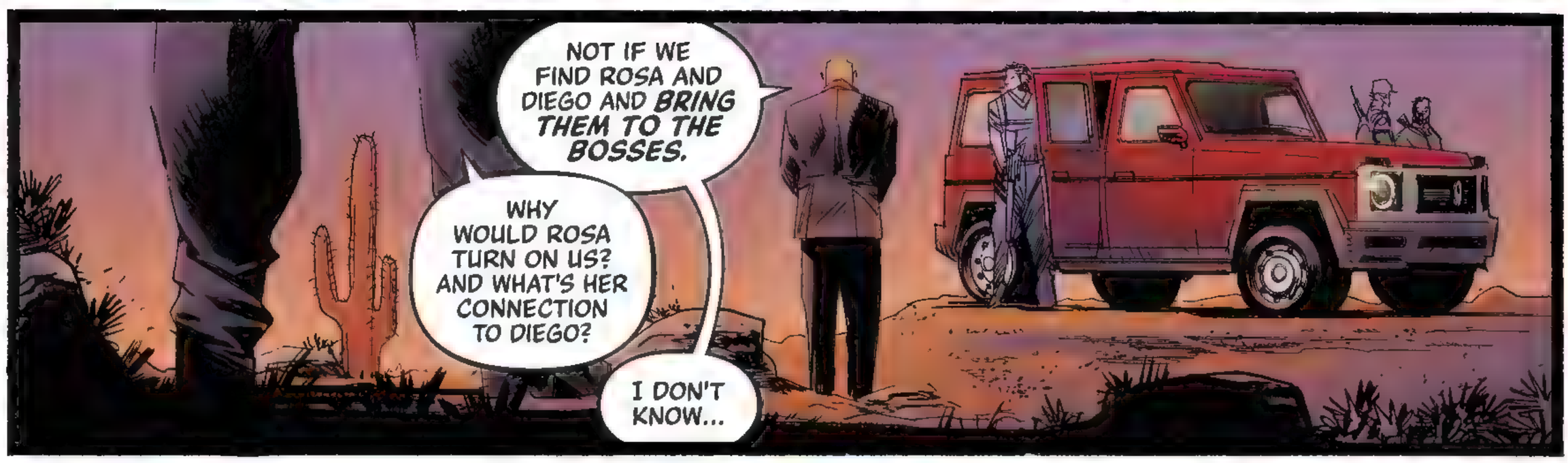

WAIT--YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO HELP US?
ANYTHING FOR THE SAVIOR OF LA VEGA, SEÑORITA.

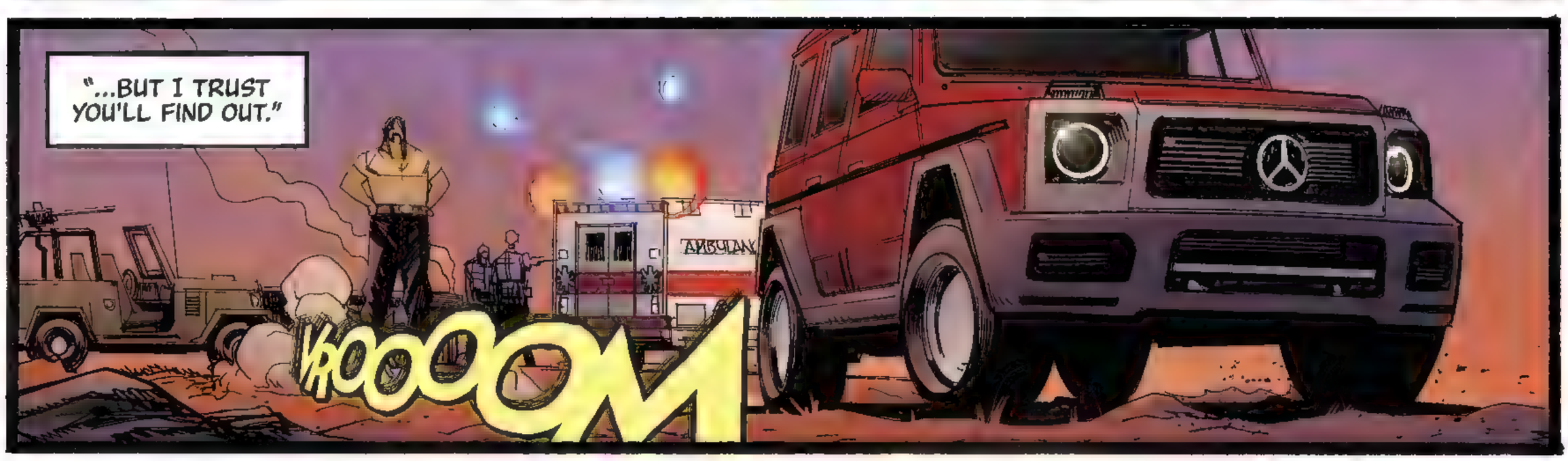
1971 EL CAMINO. FLAT BLACK COLOR, BIG TIRES, WIDEBODY KIT WITH A LIFT, CUSTOM EXHAUST--
EVERY-ONE KNOWS WHAT ROSA DRIVES!
SO WHY IS IT TAKING YOUR MEN SO LONG TO FIND HER?!

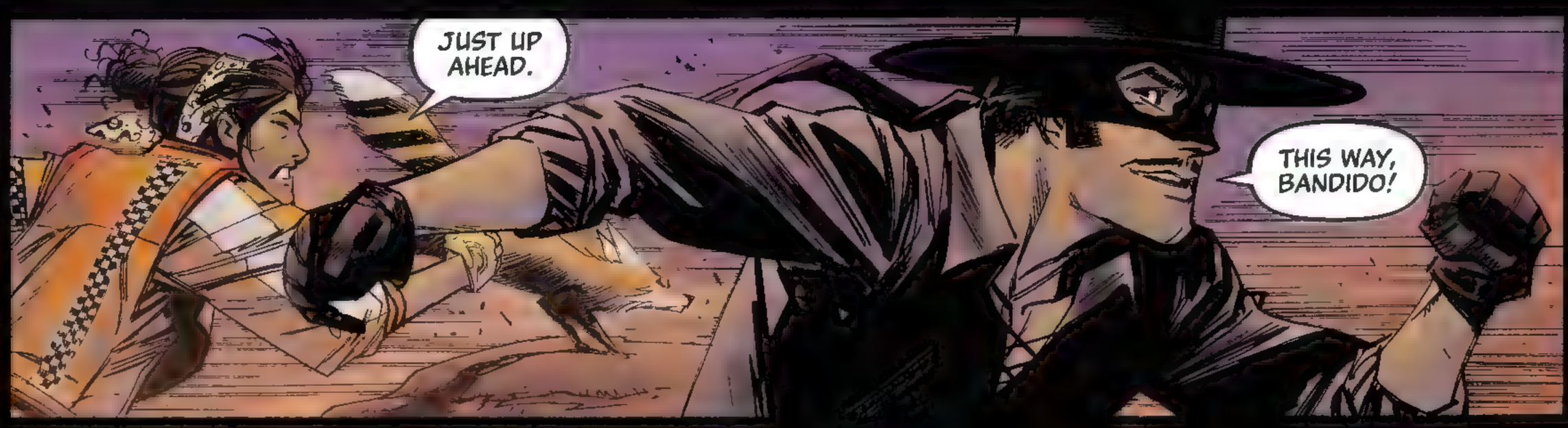
YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE ASKING QUESTIONS, ROJO. BUT YOU GOTTA TELL ME ABOUT THE MEN FROM OUT-OF-TOWN.
WHAT'S GOING ON?


THE BOSSES WEREN'T HAPPY WHEN THE DEA FOUND THOSE SMUGGLING ROUTES, AND STARTED TO SUSPECT THERE WAS A RAT. THEY FOUND EVIDENCE AGAINST ALEJANDRO, AND SENT THEIR MEN TO INVESTIGATE--
BUT HE WAS KILLED BEFORE THEY COULD DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
WHY SEND THEIR OWN MEN? WHY NOT ASK YOU TO LOOK INTO IT?
THEY WEREN'T SURE THEY COULD TRUST ME. BUT AS A SHOW OF GOOD FAITH, THEY LET ME SEND YOU.

YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME.
I SENT YOU BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T ASK QUESTIONS. I DIDN'T WANT RUMORS OF A DEA LEAK TO SPREAD.
THIS LOOKS BAD, BOSS--THIS COULD LEAD TO WAR.


NOT IF WE FIND ROSA AND DIEGO AND BRING THEM TO THE BOSSES.
WHY WOULD ROSA TURN ON US? AND WHAT'S HER CONNECTION TO DIEGO?
I DON'T KNOW...


"...BUT I TRUST YOU'LL FIND OUT."
KROOOOM


JUST UP AHEAD.
THIS WAY, BANDIDO!

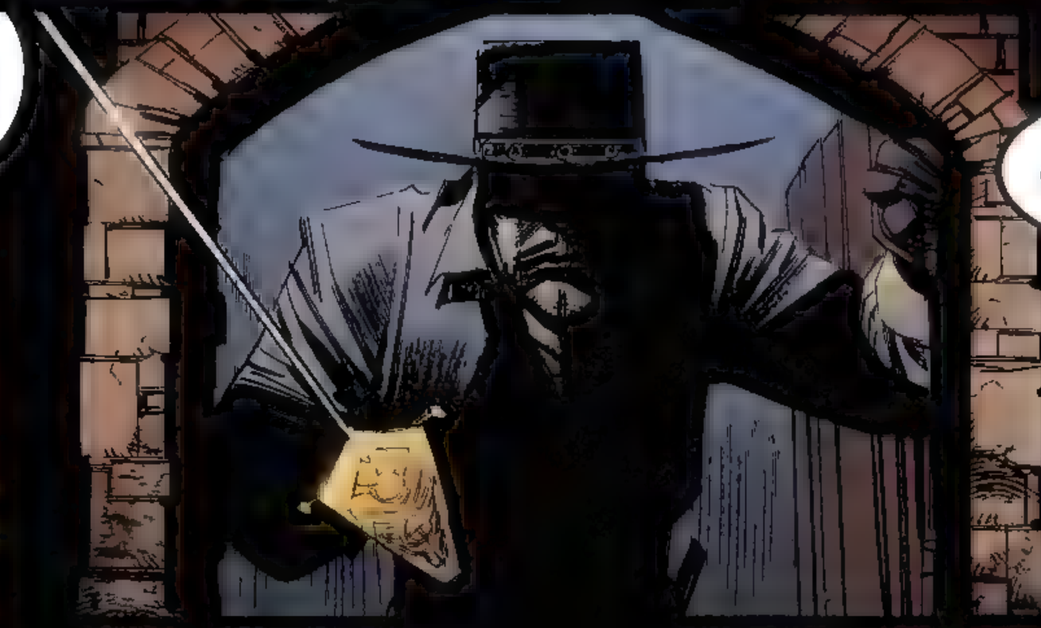
:COUGH:
:COUGH:

ARGH-- THOSE DAMN CIGARETTES.

THERE IT IS! THE VILLAGE!

THERE'S A LIGHT IN THE BASEMENT! PERHAPS THE GOOD FATHER IS EXPECTING US.
SPLOOSH SPLOOSH SPLOOSH

:GASP:



OH MY GOODNESS! COULD IT REALLY BE...

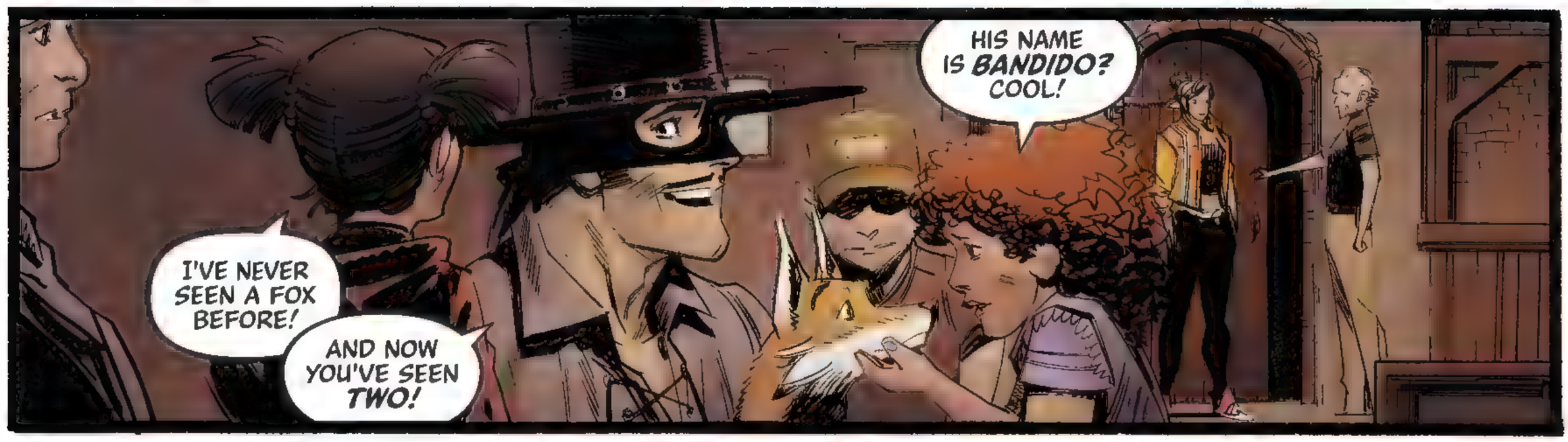
...EL ZORRO!
IS HE REAL?
GOD HAS SENT US AN ANGEL!
GRACIAS AL SEÑOR!

DIEGO-- THANK GOD YOU'RE SAFE!
I KNOW NOT WHO THIS DIEGO IS, FATHER--
--FOR I AM ZORRO! THE MASKED VIGILANTE!

OH.. I SEE.
APOLOGIES-- MY EYES AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE, ESPECIALLY BY THE CANDLE-LIGHT.
GOOD TO SEE YOU, FATHER.
HE'S BEEN TALKING STRANGELY THE WHOLE TIME, LIKE HE'S IN AN OLD MOVIE.

AT LEAST HE'S FINALLY SPEAKING! WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CASTILLO THAT CAUSED THIS?
I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME.

DIEGO--ER--I MEAN SEÑOR ZORRO...WILL YOU KEEP WATCH WHILE I FETCH SOMETHING WITH ROSA?
OF COURSE! BANDIDO AND I WILL LOOK AFTER THEM.


HIS NAME IS BANDIDO? COOL!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A FOX BEFORE!
AND NOW YOU'VE SEEN TWO!

THE OUTFIT, THE SWORD, THE PET FOX--THIS ISN'T HEALTHY! AND EVERYONE'S JUST GOING ALONG WITH IT!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO HIM?

DIEGO HAD SOME KIND OF PSYCHOTIC BREAK WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS KILLED.
ALEJANDRO HIRED SPECIALISTS TO TRY AND HELP HIM, BUT THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO DIAGNOSE HIS CONDITION.
MAYBE THE FACT THAT DIEGO GREW UP IN AN OLD SPANISH FORT--SURROUNDED BY STABLES, GARDENS, AND WINDMILLS--FED INTO HIS DELUSION THAT IT'S STILL THE 1800s. AND EMBRACING ALEJANDRO'S ZORRO OBSESSION IS SOME KIND OF COPING MECHANISM TO DEAL WITH HIS DEATH?

AND HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO SNEAK OUT OF LA VEGA WITH DON QUIXOTE BY MY SIDE?!
I MEAN, HE'S LOCO!

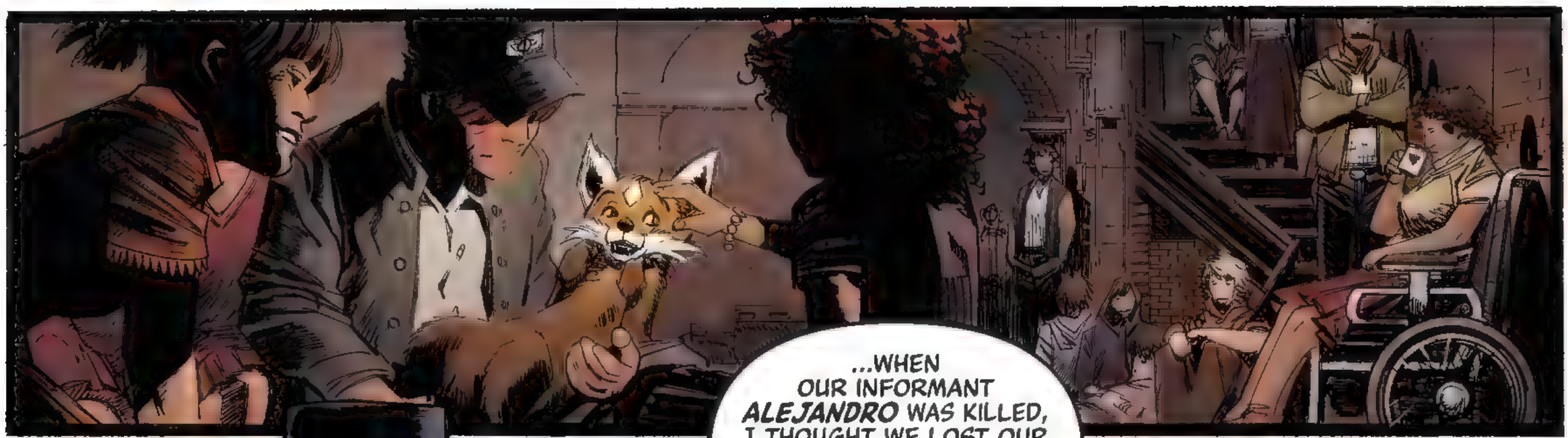
NOT COMPLETELY-- HE KNOWS YOU AND ME, AND HE REMEMBERS WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER. AND WHILE HE DOESN'T KNOW THE DATE, HE'S STILL A MORAL BEING WITH A SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG.
AND YOU NEVER KNOW--MAYBE ALEJANDRO WAS RIGHT ABOUT ZORRO AND THE HISTORY OF LA VEGA.

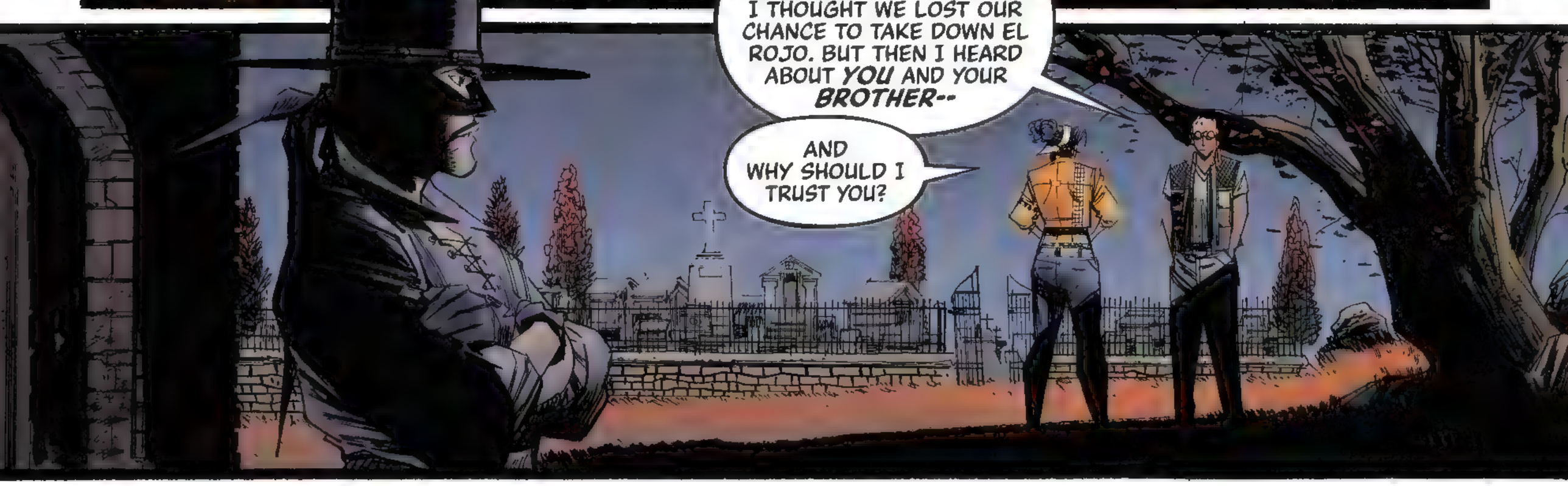
THOSE STORIES ARE AS FAR FETCHED AS THE TALES IN YOUR BIBLE.
AND YET, YOU STILL COME TO CHURCH AND PRAY.

HERE--THE BLACK VEST FROM YOUR FATHER'S ZORRO COSTUME. I THINK YOU SHOULD GIVE IT TO DIEGO.
EMBRACING THE PAST IS PART OF HEALING. FOR BOTH OF YOU.

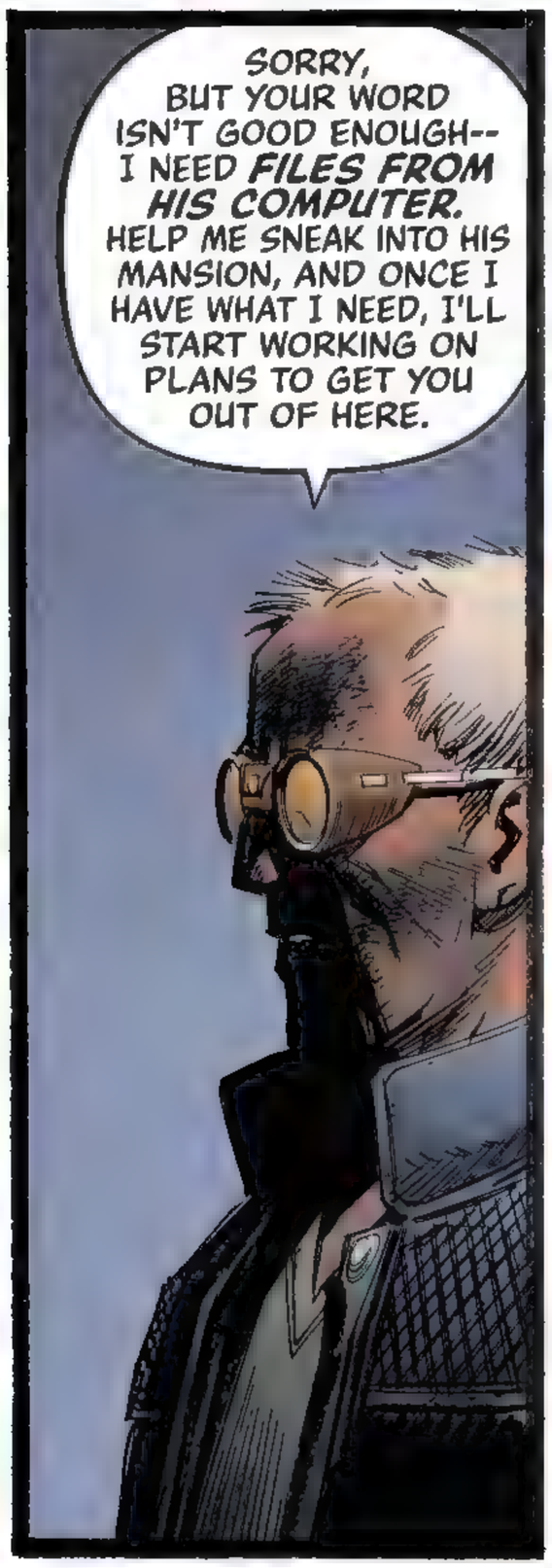
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHY ARE YOU EAVESDROPPING ON ROSA!
THUD

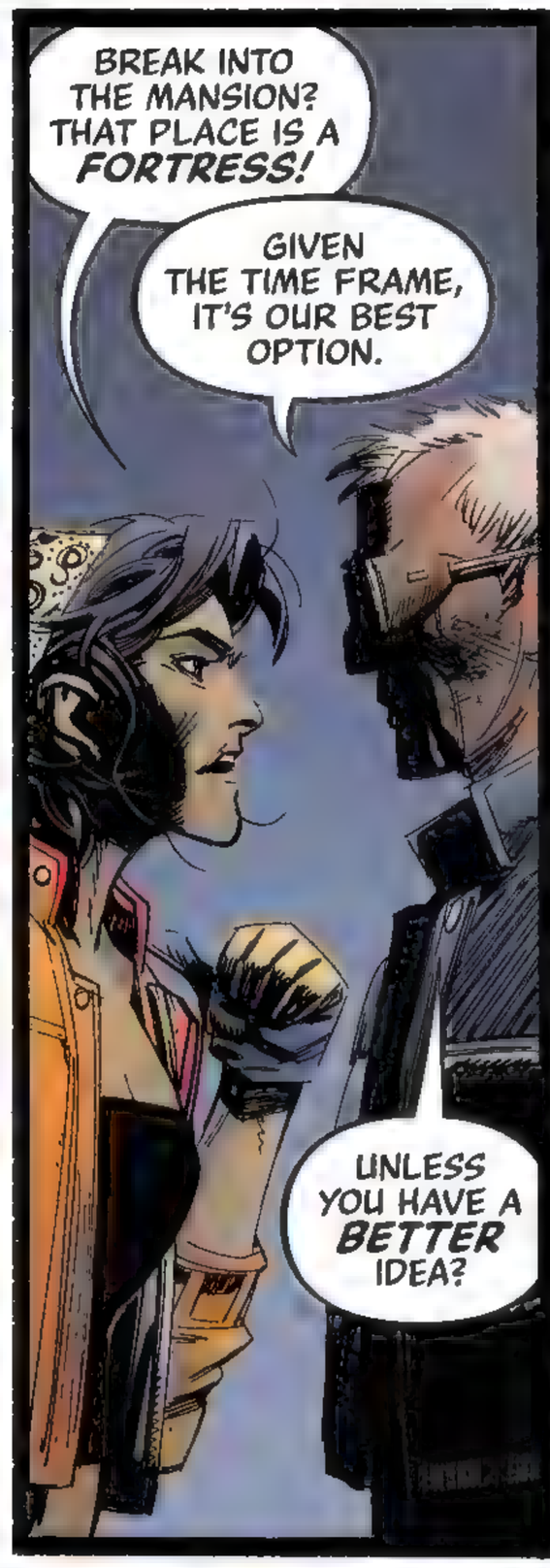
I'M AGENT WILCO...OF THE DEA...
...AND...I WANT TO HELP YOU.




...WHEN OUR INFORMANT ALEJANDRO WAS KILLED, I THOUGHT WE LOST OUR CHANCE TO TAKE DOWN EL ROJO. BUT THEN I HEARD ABOUT YOU AND YOUR BROTHER--
AND WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU?

THE REAL QUESTION IS WHY SHOULD WE TRUST YOU--A CRIMINAL WHO'S SPENT YEARS WITH THE NARCOS.
SO IF YOU WANT OUR HELP, YOU'LL NEED TO GIVE US INFORMATION ON ROJO'S TUNNELS.
AND IF I TELL YOU WHERE THEY ARE, YOU'LL GET US OUT OF HERE?


SORRY, BUT YOUR WORD ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH-- I NEED FILES FROM HIS COMPUTER. HELP ME SNEAK INTO HIS MANSION, AND ONCE I HAVE WHAT I NEED, I'LL START WORKING ON PLANS TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.


BREAK INTO THE MANSION? THAT PLACE IS A FORTRESS!
GIVEN THE TIME FRAME, IT'S OUR BEST OPTION.
UNLESS YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA?

ALEJANDRO WAS HELPING BUILD THE TUNNELS FOR ROJO. WE CAN GET WHAT WE NEED AT THE CASTILLO.
ALEJANDRO DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ELECTRICITY, LET ALONE A COMPUTER.
BUT HE'D STILL HAVE MAPS AND BLUE-PRINTS ON PAPER--

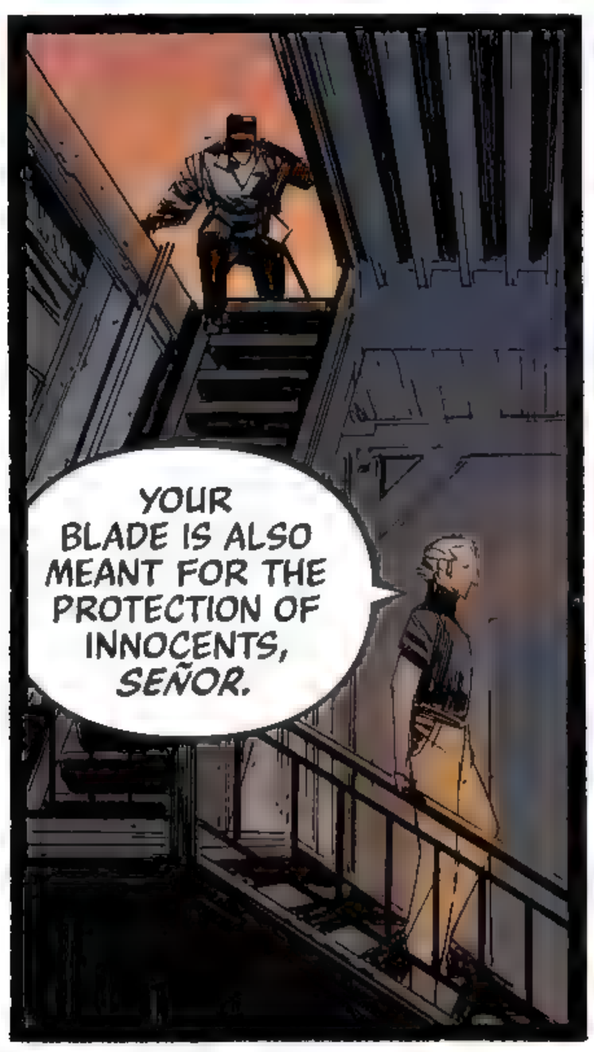
JESUS, WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT? AND YOUR BROTHER CAN SHOW US WHERE TO FIND THEM--
NO-- DIEGO STAYS BEHIND! THAT'S THE ONLY WAY I'LL HELP YOU.

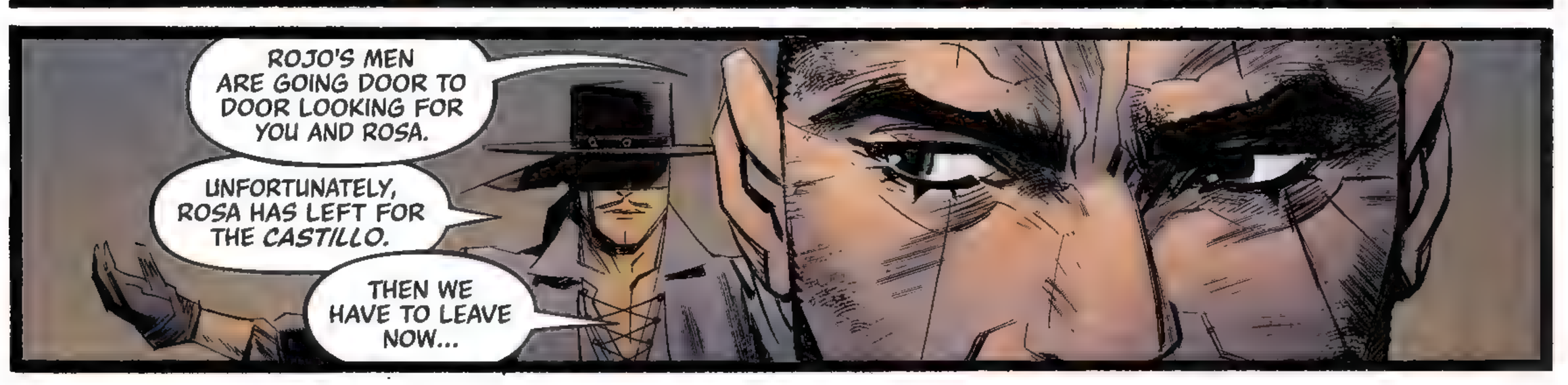
I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH THEM, FATHER.

SHE AND WILCO WILL BE BACK SOON.

THE BLADE OF ZORRO WAS FORGED BY *INJUSTICE,* SHARPENED IN *REBELLION,* AND POLISHED BY THE BLOOD OF *TYRANTS.*

IT SHOULDN'T BE LEFT TO RUST IN THE SHADOWS.



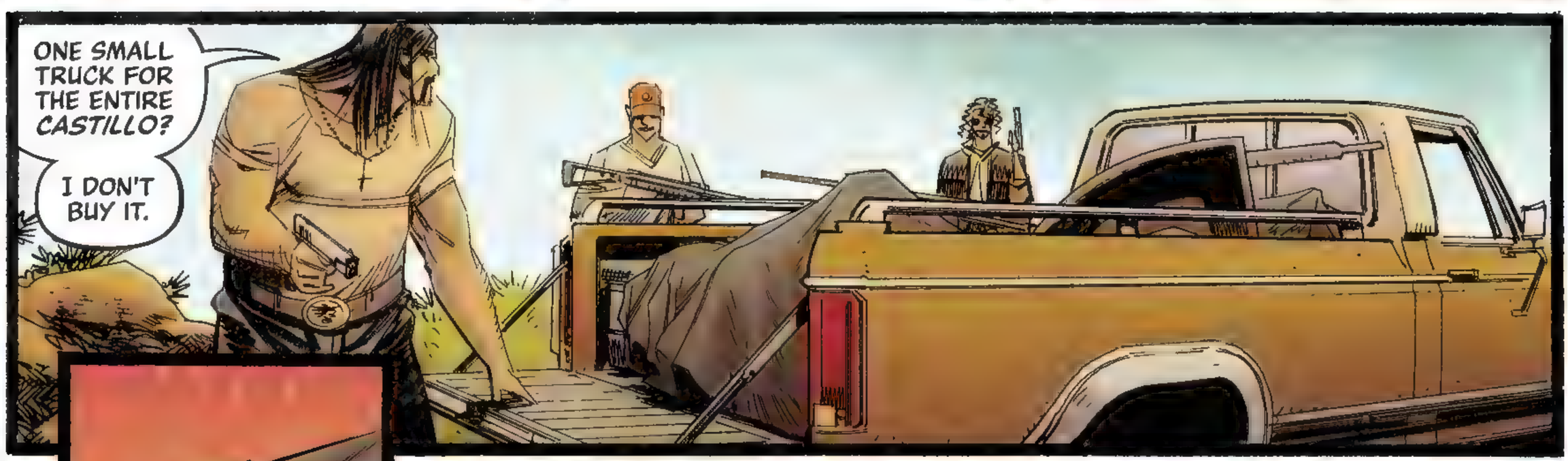


"...BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE TREJO WAS HEADED."

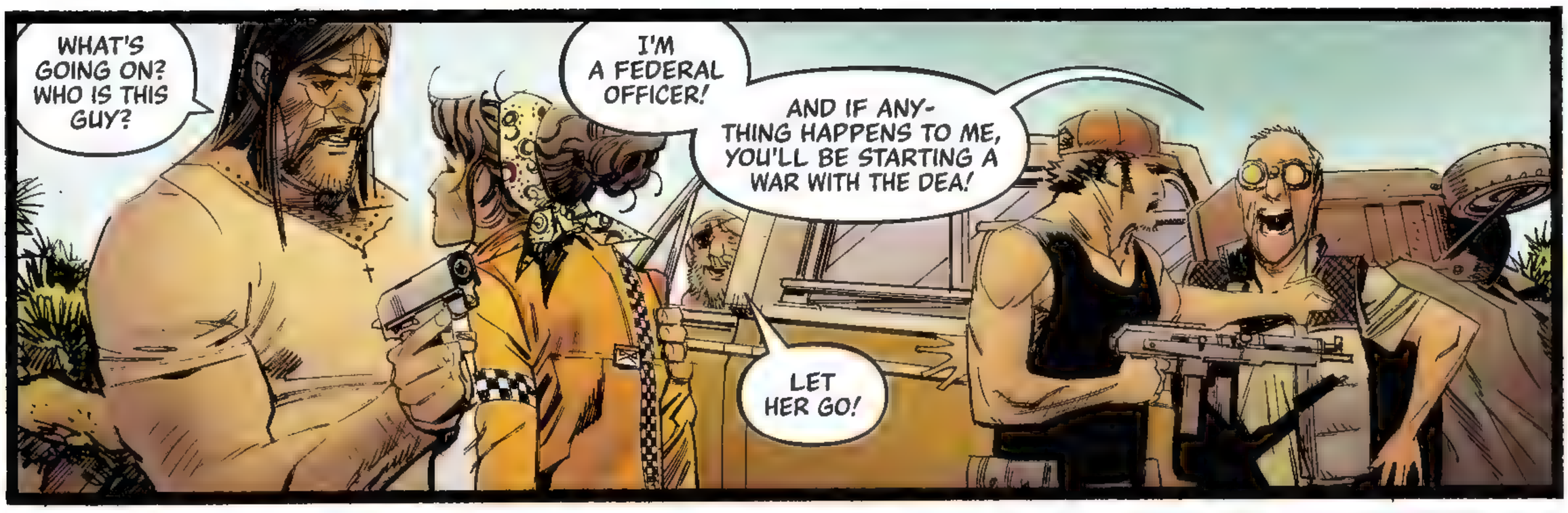
IS THAT EVERYTHING? *EL ROJO* WANTS NOTHING LEFT BEHIND.
WE GOT THE BLUEPRINTS, THE BUILD SCHEDULE, THE LAND SURVEYS, AND ALL THE MAPS.

WHO'S IN THE OLD PICKUP?
NOT SURE.

WHERE YOU HEADED, *ANCIANO?*
I TEND THE GARDENS FOR *SEÑOR* ALEJANDRO.


ONE SMALL TRUCK FOR THE ENTIRE *CASTILLO?*
I DON'T BUY IT.

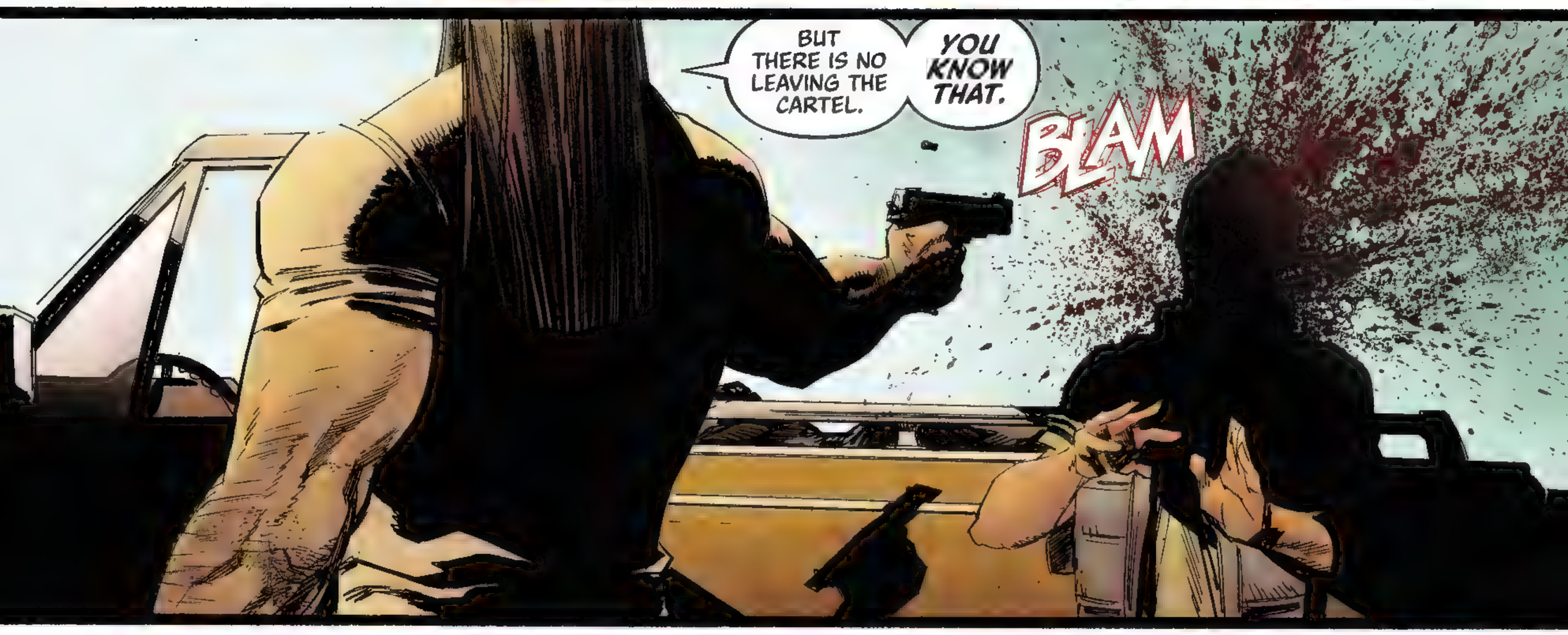
ROSA!


WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO IS THIS GUY?
I'M A FEDERAL OFFICER!
AND IF ANY-THING HAPPENS TO ME, YOU'LL BE STARTING A WAR WITH THE DEA!
LET HER GO!

IS THAT TRUE, ROSA? YOU'RE WORKING WITH THE DEA?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I ALWAYS LOOKED OUT FOR YOU--LIKE A SISTER.
I'M SORRY, TREJO. BUT I ALREADY HAVE A BROTHER.

...
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT--DIEGO'S YOUR BROTHER.

I HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE, TREJO. AND YOU CAN COME WITH US--
I UNDER-STAND WHY YOU DID IT, ROSA.
YOU'RE A GOOD SISTER--ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.


BUT THERE IS NO LEAVING THE CARTEL.
YOU KNOW THAT.
BLAM

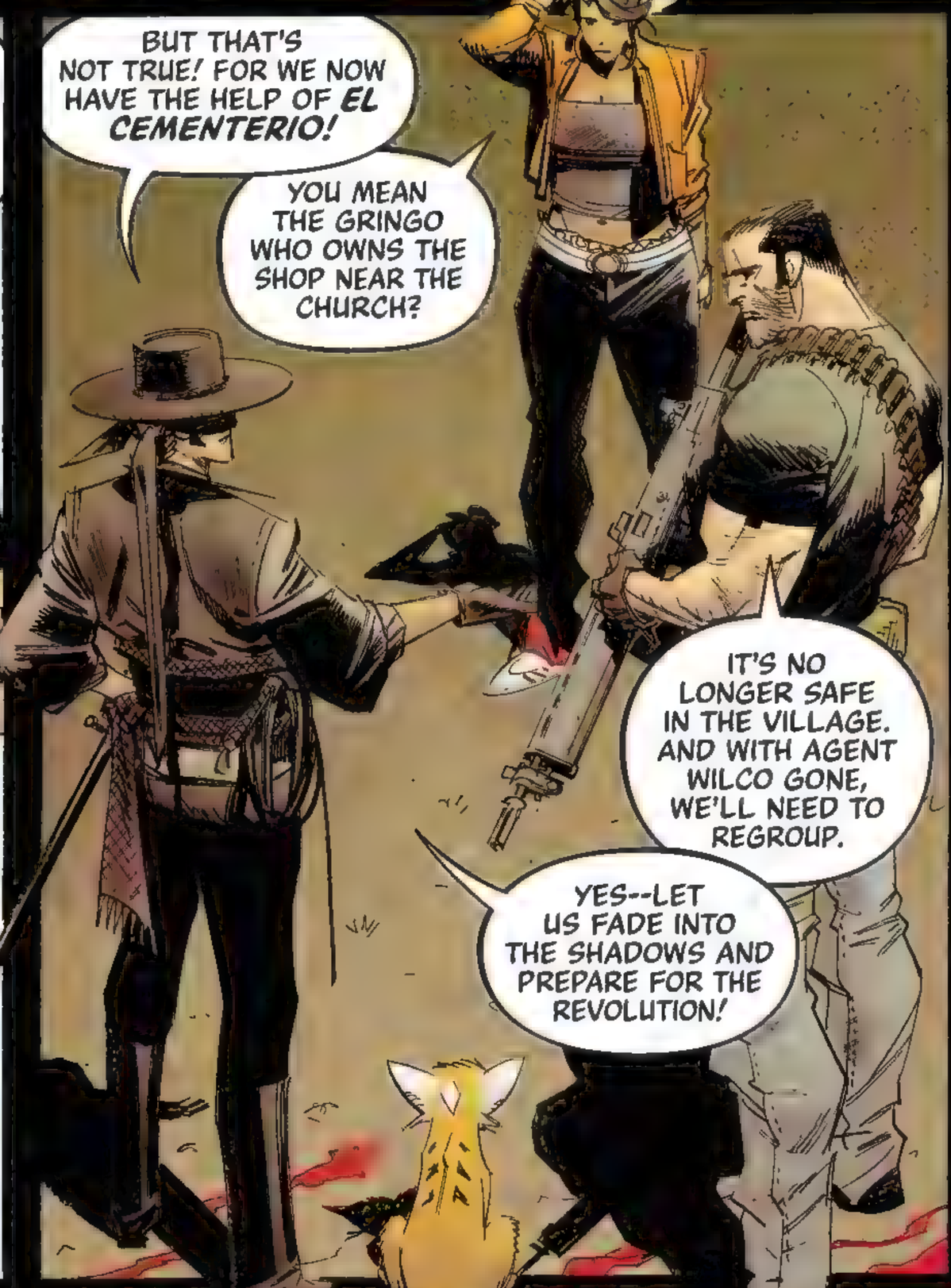
NOOOO!
NEVER FEAR, DEAR ROSA...

...FOR ZORRO HAS ARRIVED!
ALONG WITH HIS FIGHTING LEGION!

TAKE COVER!
WHAT THE HELL?!
KRAK
SATCH!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
BRATTA BRATTA
CHOMP
BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA
SLASH
BLAM BLAM BLAM
VROOOOM

FATHER, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?! I TOLD YOU TO KEEP HIM SAFE IN THE CHURCH!
I'M SORRY, ROSA, BUT WE HAD NO CHOICE.

IS THIS AGENT WILCO?
IT WAS. HE WAS MY ONLY HOPE OF GETTING OUT OF THE VALLEY.

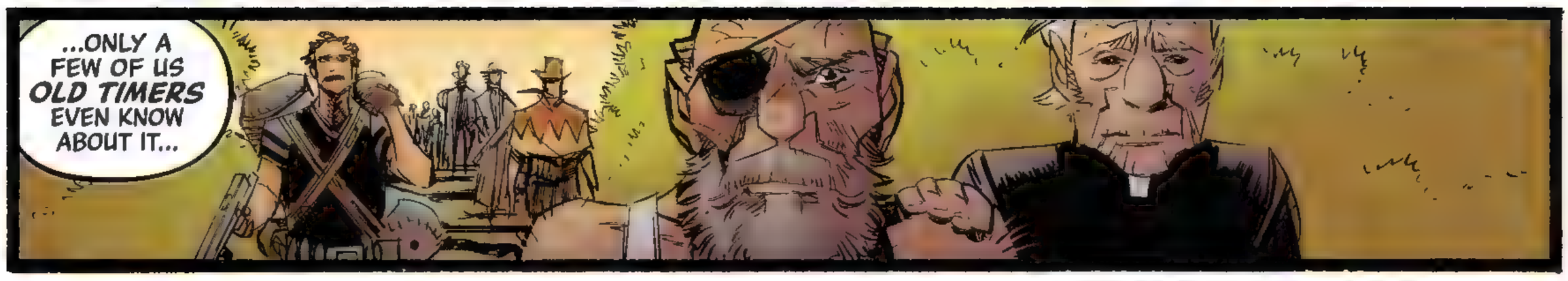

BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE! FOR WE NOW HAVE THE HELP OF EL CEMENTERIO!
YOU MEAN THE GRINGO WHO OWNS THE SHOP NEAR THE CHURCH?
IT'S NO LONGER SAFE IN THE VILLAGE. AND WITH AGENT WILCO GONE, WE'LL NEED TO REGROUP.
YES--LET US FADE INTO THE SHADOWS AND PREPARE FOR THE REVOLUTION!

JESUS CHRIST, DIEGO-- YOU'RE NOT LEADING A REVOLUTION!
AND YOU'RE NOT SOME ROBIN HOOD WHO'S GOING TO CHANGE LA VEGA.
YOU'RE JUST A DELUSIONAL KID IN A HALLOWEEN COSTUME.
BUT...YOU AGREED TO HELP ME LEAD THE PEOPLE AGAINST THE EVIL FORCES OF--
IT WAS A LIE, DIEGO!

BUT... YOU SAID I COULD TRUST YOU.
WE CAN'T STAY OUT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS. AND WE CAN'T STAY IN THE CASTILLO OR GO BACK TO TOWN--

I KNOW WHERE WE CAN HIDE.
A CAVE. NOT FAR FROM HERE...

...UP IN THE MOUNTAINS, HIDDEN INSIDE AN ANCIENT CENOTE...


...ONLY A FEW OF US OLD TIMERS EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT...

...WE'VE KEPT IT HIDDEN LONGER THAN ANYONE CAN REMEMBER.

...LA VEGA'S GREATEST TREASURE...

...PROOF THAT THE LEGEND IS REAL...

...ZORRO'S SECRET LAIR.

CHAPTER THREE

LA VEGA'S GREATEST TREASURE, KEPT SECRET FOR MANY GENERATIONS.
PROOF THAT THE LEGEND IS REAL.
ZORRO'S SECRET LAIR.
EXCELLENT, SEÑOR! IT'S ALL STILL HERE...
...A TRAINING AREA TO PRACTICE MY MANY FIGHTING SKILLS...
...A PLACE TO STUDY AND INVESTIGATE CLUES...
...AND A SPOT FOR ME, BANDIDO, AND TORNADO TO REST AFTER COMPLETING OUR MANY ADVENTURES!

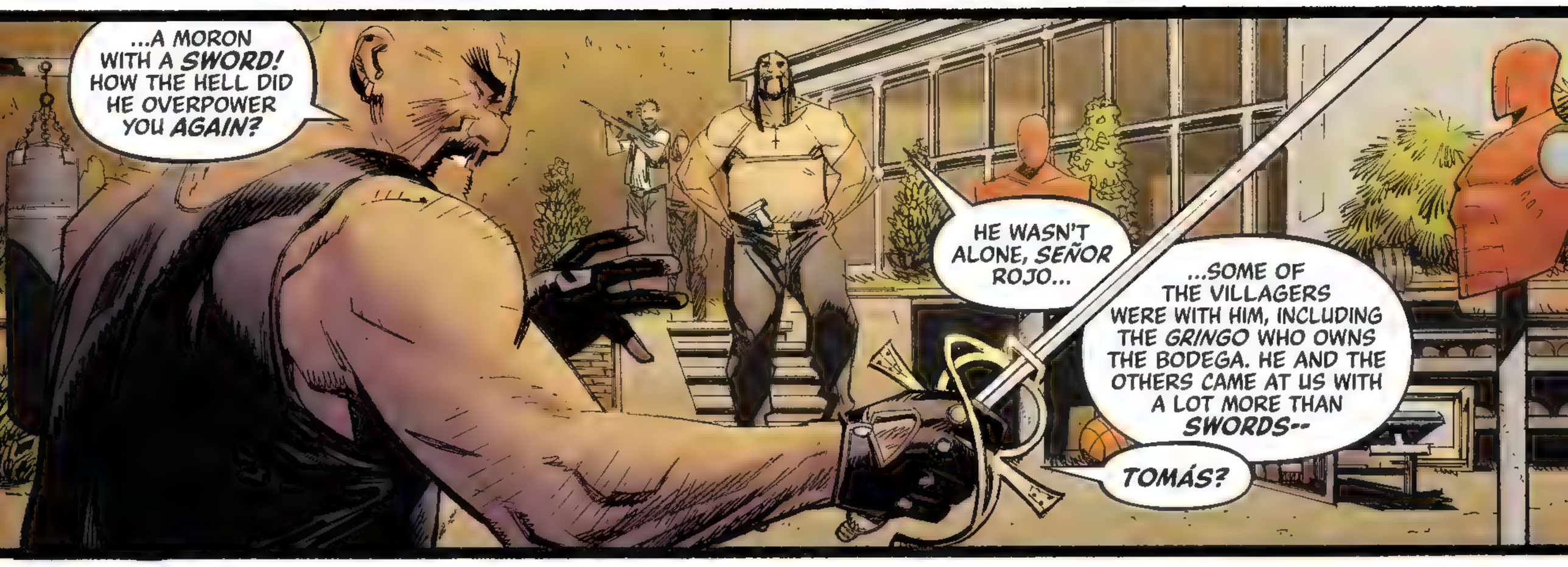
APOLOGIES FOR NOT MAINTAINING IT--WE WEREN'T SURE WHAT YOUR WISHES WOULD HAVE BEEN--
SEÑOR PATCH, I'M HONORED BY YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT-- ONCE WE BRING IT BACK TO ITS FORMER GLORY, WE CAN BEGIN PLANNING OUR ATTACK ON THE RED DEVIL OF LA VEGA, EL ROJO!

HAVE YOU ALL LOST YOUR MIND?! THIS IS JUST A RUN DOWN CAVE ANY HOBO COULD HAVE LIVED IN. THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION TO ZORRO--
HERE WE ARE, SEÑOR...

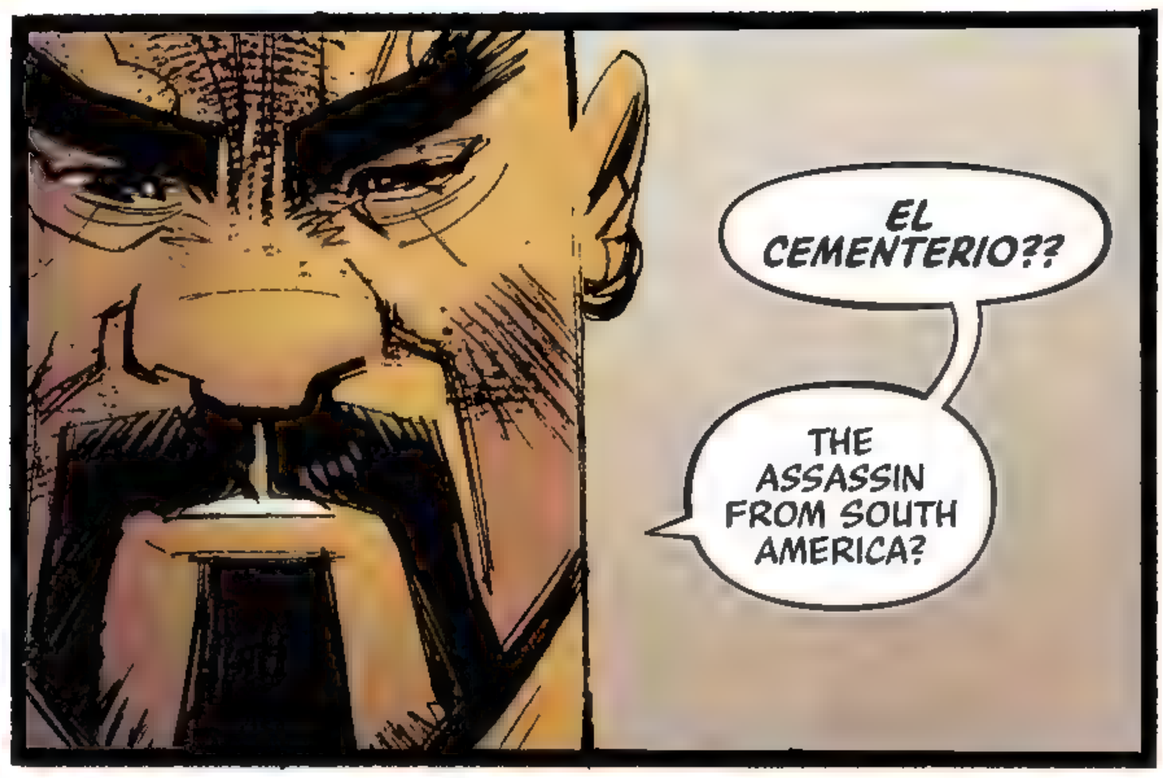
...THIS CHEST HAS BEEN HERE LONGER THAN ANY OF US CAN REMEMBER.

CLEARLY, THESE THINGS BELONG TO YOU.

"THE KID IS LOCO..."


...A MORON WITH A SWORD! HOW THE HELL DID HE OVERPOWER YOU AGAIN?
HE WASN'T ALONE, SEÑOR ROJO...
...SOME OF THE VILLAGERS WERE WITH HIM, INCLUDING THE GRINGO WHO OWNS THE BODEGA. HE AND THE OTHERS CAME AT US WITH A LOT MORE THAN SWORDS--
TOMÁS?

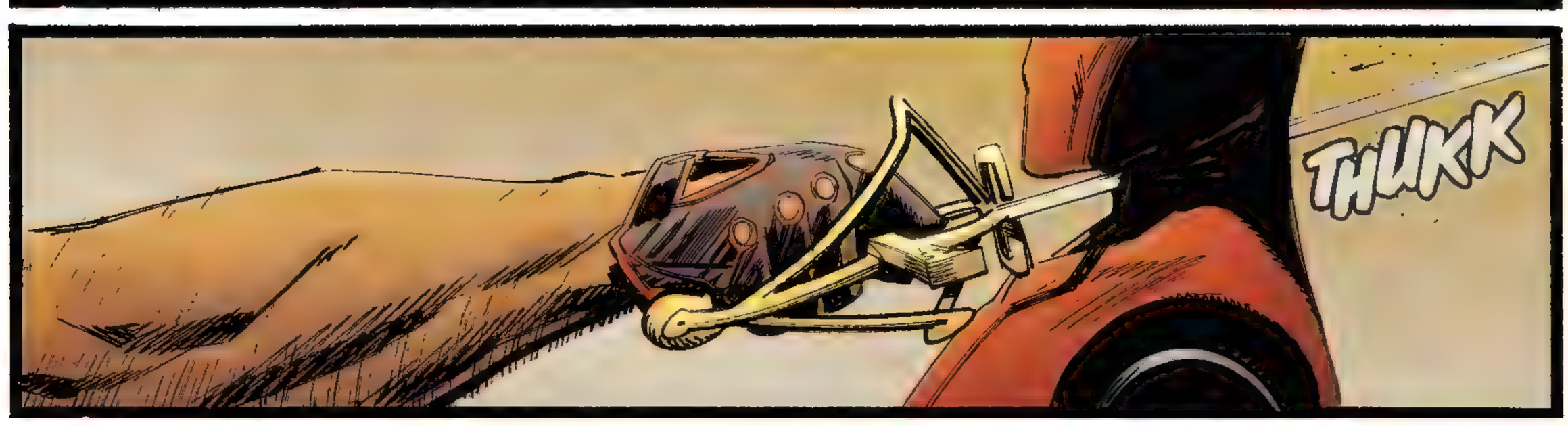
THEY DIDN'T CALL HIM TOMÁS-- THEY CALLED HIM EL CEMENTERIO.


EL CEMENTERIO??
THE ASSASSIN FROM SOUTH AMERICA?

THWAP
NO ONE'S EVER SEEN HIM AND LIVED TO TALK ABOUT IT. APPARENTLY HE'S BEEN LIVING UNDER OUR NOSES FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS.
IF HE AND THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN IN LA VEGA ALL ALONG, HOW WERE WE ABLE TO TAKE CONTROL WITHOUT ANY RESISTANCE?

I DON'T KNOW...
...BUT HE'S CLEARLY READY TO PUT UP RESISTANCE NOW.
REACH OUT TO THE BOSSES, SEE WHAT KIND OF BACKUP THEY CAN SEND.
ONE MORE THING, SEÑOR ROJO.

IT'S ROSA-- I KNOW WHY SHE TURNED ON US.
DIEGO. ALEJANDRO'S SON...
...HE'S HER BROTHER.


THUKK

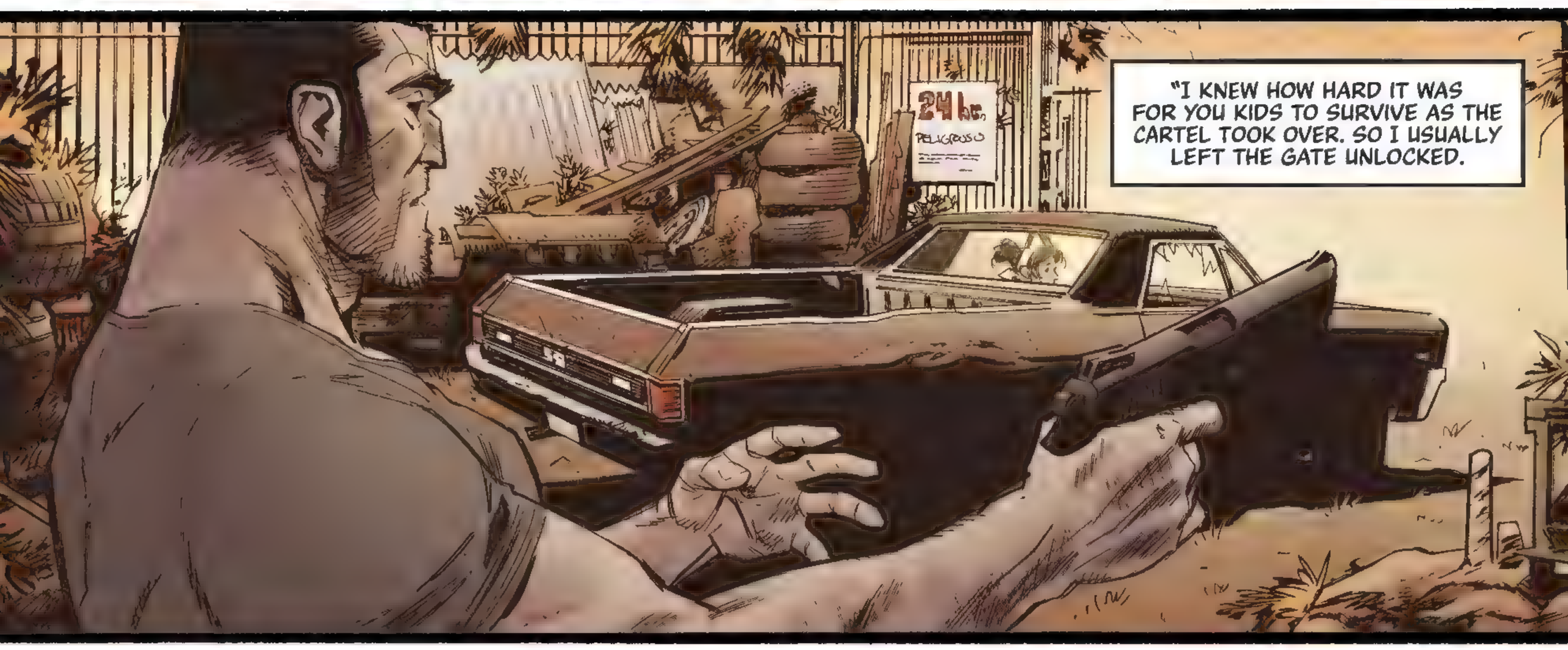
HE'S NEVER GOING TO GET BETTER IF YOU AND THE OTHERS KEEP FEEDING INTO HIS DELUSION LIKE THIS.
YOU SAW WHAT WAS IN THAT CHEST. AND YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE?
EVEN IF THERE WAS ONCE SOME IDIOT IN LA VEGA WHO THOUGHT HE WAS ZORRO, HE'S CERTAINLY NOT AROUND ANYMORE.
AND HE'S NOT REINCARNATED IN MY BROTHER.
REALLY-- YOU'RE JUST TAKING A CIGARETTE WITHOUT ASKING?
I FIGURE YOU OWE ME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
FOR STEALING MY CAR.
...WHAT?
BEFORE I OWNED THE BODEGA, I USED TO OWN A JUNKYARD.
I MOSTLY DEALT IN SCRAP METAL. HAD LOTS OF STUFF LYING AROUND--OLD APPLIANCES, WROUGHT IRON, A BUNCH OF BROKEN CARS...
...AND AN EL CAMINO.

"YOU WERE JUST A STREET KID LOOKING FOR ANYTHING VALUABLE TO PAWN."

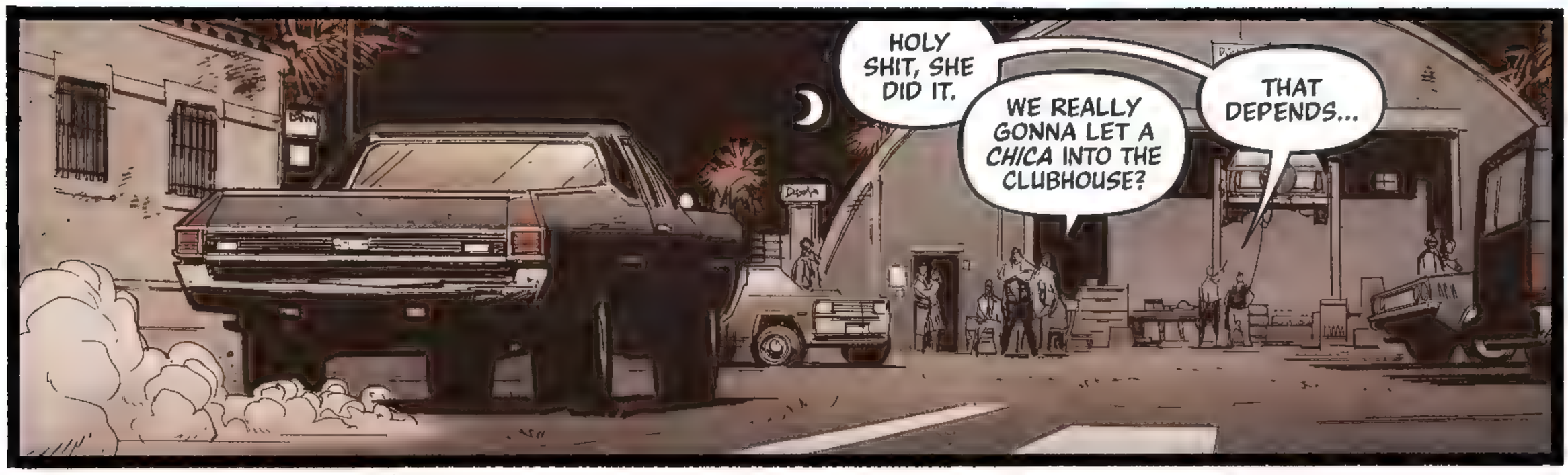
CHU-CHUG CHU-CHUG

VROOM

CLICK


24 hr.
PELIGROSO
"I KNEW HOW HARD IT WAS FOR YOU KIDS TO SURVIVE AS THE CARTEL TOOK OVER. SO I USUALLY LEFT THE GATE UNLOCKED.

HOLA
"I JUST NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO TAKE ANYTHING THAT *LARGE.*"


HOLY SHIT, SHE DID IT.
WE REALLY GONNA LET A *CHICA* INTO THE CLUBHOUSE?
THAT DEPENDS...

...ON TREJO.

I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE...

...TAKING THE CAR WAS PART OF MY *INITIATION.*

AND THAT'S HOW YOU EVENTUALLY ENDED UP WORKING FOR ROJO?

WELL, I'M NOT THE *ONLY ONE* WHO LET THE CARTEL TAKE OVER-- APPARENTLY YOU'RE SOME SORT OF GUERRILLA FIGHTER?

WHERE WERE *YOU* WHEN EVERYTHING STARTED GOING SOUTH?

LIKE YOU SAID, I'M JUST A *GRINGO.* THE VILLAGERS WERE NEVER GOING TO RALLY BEHIND AN OUTSIDER.

SO YOU'RE JUST A *WHITE KNIGHT* USING MY BROTHER AS YOUR *BROWN SHIELD?*

LA VEGA IS MY HOME, *SEÑORITA,* AND THESE PEOPLE ARE MY FAMILY.

DIEGO'S INSPIRED THEM LIKE I NEVER COULD.

SO WHAT-EVER HELP HE NEEDS, I'LL PROVIDE.

BECAUSE I *BELIEVE* IN HIM.

THERE WON'T BE A *REVOLUTION.* ONCE THE SUN RISES, DIEGO AND I WILL BE LEAVING LA VEGA...

click

...WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR NOT.

MOM, I'M SCARED.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE'S FATHER VALDEZ?
EVERYONE OUT!

YOU ALL KNOW WHO I AM. AND YOU KNOW WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF.
BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE HOW LUCKY YOU HAVE IT IN LA VEGA...

...THE CARTEL ISN'T USUALLY SO KIND TO COMMUNITIES LIKE YOURS. BUT I'VE WORKED HARD TO MAINTAIN THE VALLEY'S SAFETY AND STABILITY, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THIS PLACE IS SPECIAL.
BUT IT'S NOT SPECIAL BECAUSE OF SOME MEXICAN SWASHBUCKLER, IT'S SPECIAL BECAUSE WE'VE ALL FOUND A WAY TO WORK TOGETHER.
BUT THAT ARRANGEMENT WILL COME TO AN END IF YOU DON'T GIVE HIM TO ME. SO I'M ONLY ASKING THIS ONE TIME: WHERE IS HE?

WHO?
YOU KNOW WHO I'M TALKING ABOUT. HE CAME TO THE CHURCH LAST NIGHT--
OH, YOU MEAN EL ZORRO?

HE IS NOT ZORRO!
HE'S DIEGO, ALEJANDRO'S CRAZY SON.
AND IF HE, ROSA, AND THE OTHERS AREN'T BROUGHT TO ME BY THE END OF THE NIGHT, THEN I'LL START CUTTING PEOPLE DOWN!

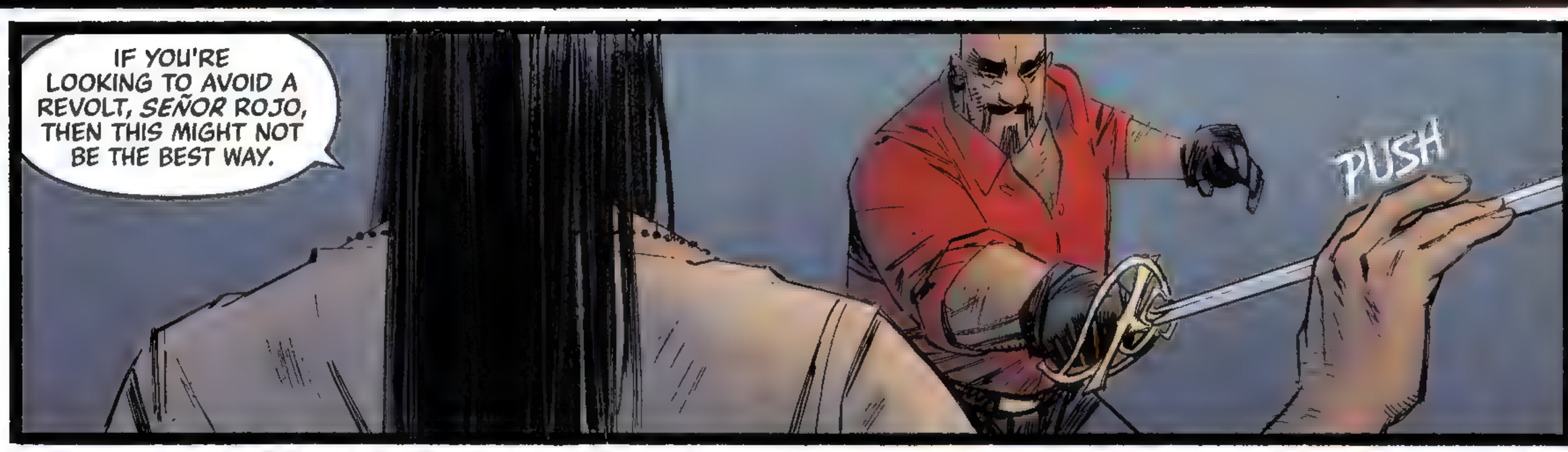
NO ONE?
I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE.
BUT I GUESS THAT'S WHAT THIS COWARDLY VILLAGE DOES BEST--REMAIN SILENT WHEN YOU'RE SCARED.
YES, SEÑOR ROJO--THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE DO...

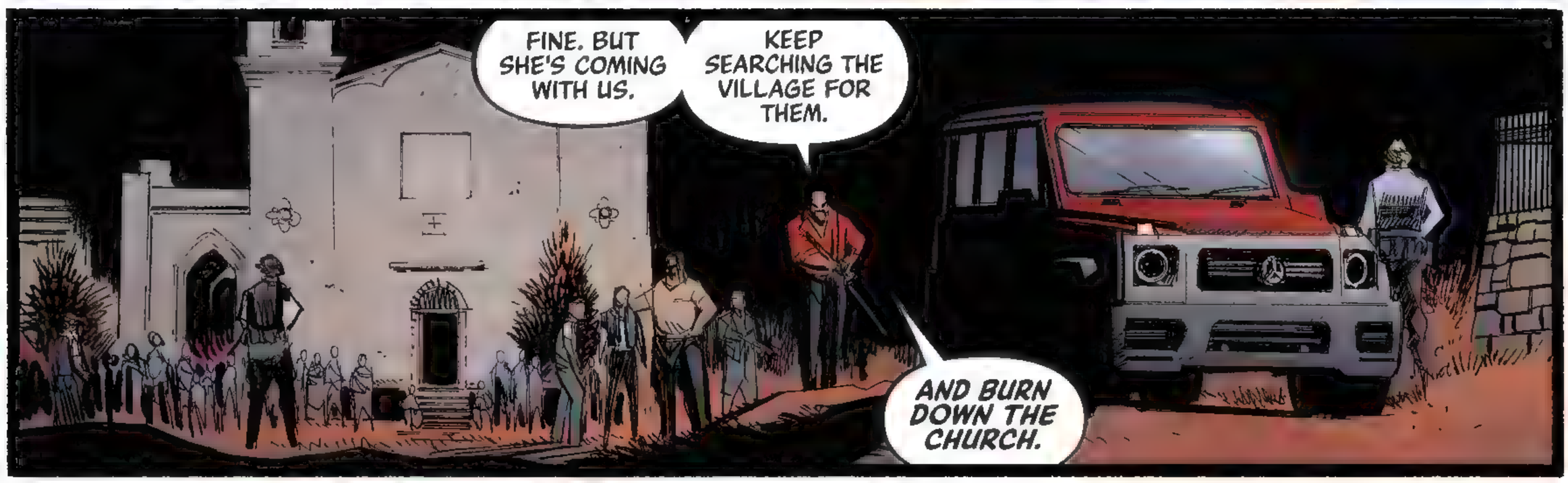
...AND WE'VE BEEN DOING IT SINCE THE DAY YOU ARRIVED. BUT THIS TIME, IT'S NOT WORKING TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.
WE MIGHT BE SCARED, BUT WE'RE NOT COWARDS.

WELL I ADMIRE YOUR NEWFOUND COURAGE. AND I KNOW MANY OF YOU ARE FEELING THE SAME WAY, HOPING FOR A REVOLUTION.
BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. ZORRO'S NOT REAL, AND HE'S NOT GOING TO LIBERATE LA VEGA.

ESPERANZA.
IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING, NOW'S THE TIME TO SPEAK UP.
WHO IS THIS?

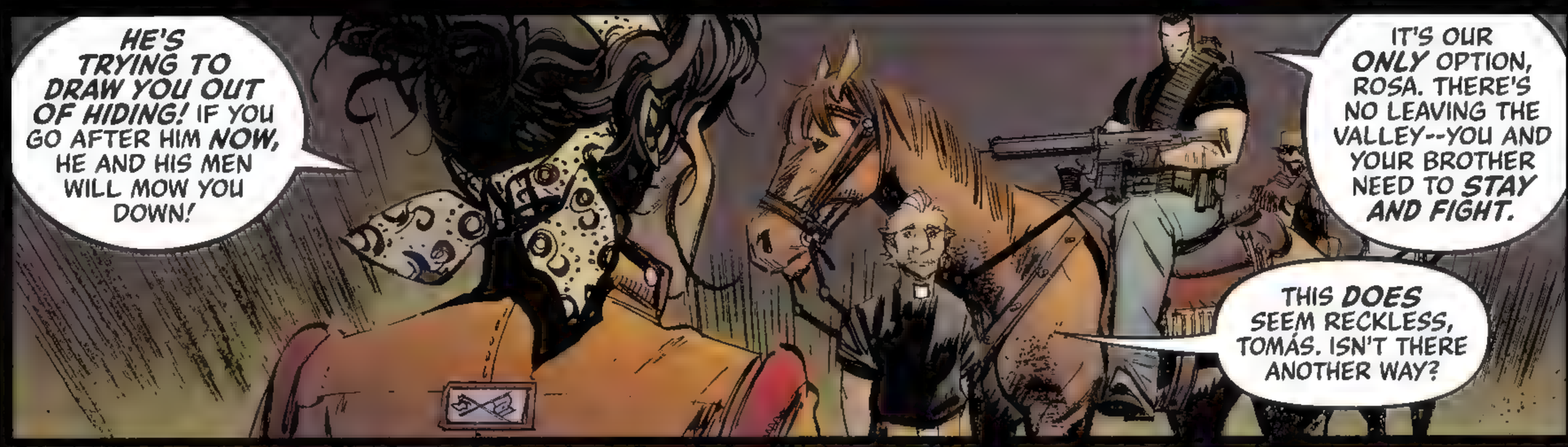
ESPERANZA LIVES WITH ROSA.
I SEE.
I CAN'T GUARANTEE HER SAFETY, ESPERANZA. BUT I CAN GUARANTEE YOURS. ASSUMING YOU HELP US FIND HER.


IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO AVOID A REVOLT, SEÑOR ROJO, THEN THIS MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST WAY.
PUSH


FINE. BUT SHE'S COMING WITH US.
KEEP SEARCHING THE VILLAGE FOR THEM.
AND BURN DOWN THE CHURCH.

WOOSH
SHUKK
SHUKK
SLASH
THOKK

HOORAY FOR EL ZORRO!
EVEN WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I COULD NEVER MOVE LIKE THAT.
GRACIAS, SEÑOR CEMENTARIO. YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AS NIMBLE, BUT I'M GUESSING YOU MADE UP FOR IT WITH BRUTE STRENGTH!
SEÑOR ZORRO--EL ROJO IS BURNING DOWN THE CHURCH!
OH MY GOD--DID EVERYONE GET OUT IN TIME?
SO FAR, NO ONE HAS DIED. BUT THEY HAVE ESPERANZA!
WHAT?!
THAT DASTARDLY RED DEMON! I WILL MAKE HIM PAY!
SEÑOR CEMENTERIO--GATHER YOUR MEN, FOR WE LEAVE AT ONCE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, DIEGO!
BUT ROSA, WE MUST RESPOND, OR ELSE THE REST OF THE VILLAGERS WILL LOSE HOPE!
HE'S RIGHT. AND THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE MORE LIKELY THE CARTEL WILL SEND ROJO REINFORCEMENTS.


HE'S TRYING TO DRAW YOU OUT OF HIDING! IF YOU GO AFTER HIM NOW, HE AND HIS MEN WILL MOW YOU DOWN!
IT'S OUR ONLY OPTION, ROSA. THERE'S NO LEAVING THE VALLEY--YOU AND YOUR BROTHER NEED TO STAY AND FIGHT.
THIS DOES SEEM RECKLESS, TOMÁS. ISN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY?

SORRY, FATHER.
BUT SOMETIMES THERE ARE NO GOOD OPTIONS.

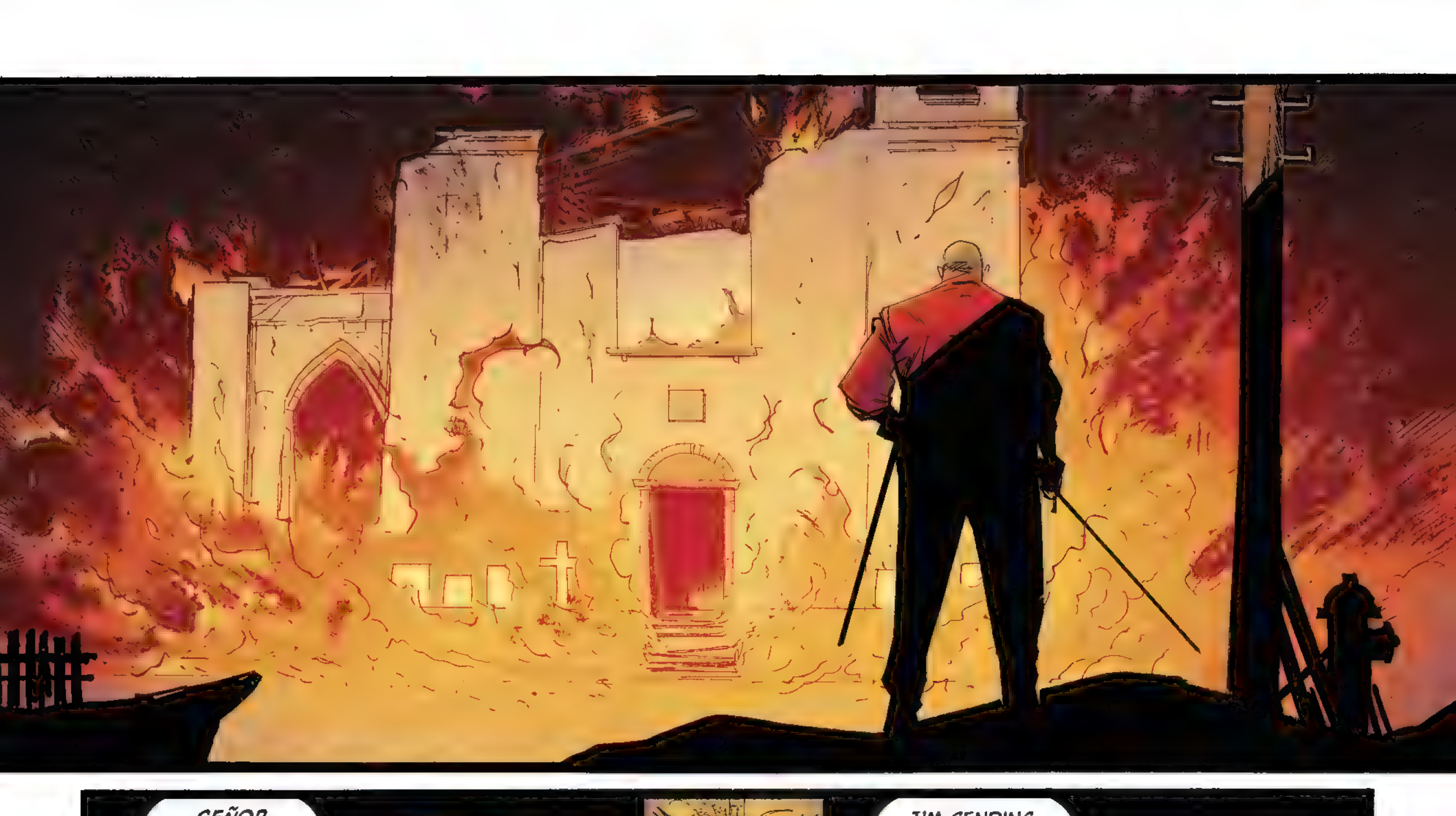
WHAT ABOUT WILCO'S PLAN?
ROJO'S IN THE VILLAGE WITH MOST OF HIS MEN--IF WE RAID THE MANSION WHILE HE'S AWAY, WE CAN STEAL THE FILES AND GET THEM TO THE DEA--
AND HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK INTO THE MANSION WITHOUT ROJO FINDING OUT?

WE'LL KILL THEM QUICKLY AND QUIETLY, WITHOUT A SHOT BEING FIRED.
I SEE...

...PREFERABLY WITH THE HELP OF SOMEONE USING A SWORD?
EXACTLY.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM GETTING INVOLVED.

LIKE YOU SAID, SOMETIMES THERE ARE NO GOOD OPTIONS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN ZORRO...

...BUT I BELIEVE *IN MY BROTHER.*



SEÑOR ROJO, WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M SENDING THESE PEOPLE A MESSAGE.

WE GOT A BUNCH OF CALLS ABOUT THE CHURCH, SEÑOR. WE NEED TO MOVE THESE PEOPLE AWAY SO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CAN--
NO. LET IT BURN.
THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH I CAN TURN A BLIND EYE TO.

SLASH

WHY ARE YOU STANDING AROUND?
SEARCH THE VILLAGE!

STAY STRONG, PRIEST. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TOO GREAT TO RESIDE IN A SINGLE BUILDING.
FOR IT RESIDES IN EACH OF US.

THESE DAYS, I'M NOT SURE IT RESIDES ANYWHERE.
YOU CAN'T BLAME GOD FOR YOUR MISFORTUNE, ROSA.
WAS IT GOD WHO TOOK OUR PARENTS? OR ALEJANDRO AND WILCO?

IT WASN'T GOD WHO MADE YOU JOIN A GANG OF THIEVES WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, OR MADE YOU WORK FOR ROJO.
AND IT CERTAINLY WASN'T GOD WHO MADE YOU ABANDON YOUR BROTHER.

WHAT KIND OF PRIEST CONDONES ALL THIS VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED? MAYBE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE STRUGGLING WITH MY FAITH.
I'M WILLING TO BREAK THE RULES IF IT MEANS PROTECTING MY FLOCK.

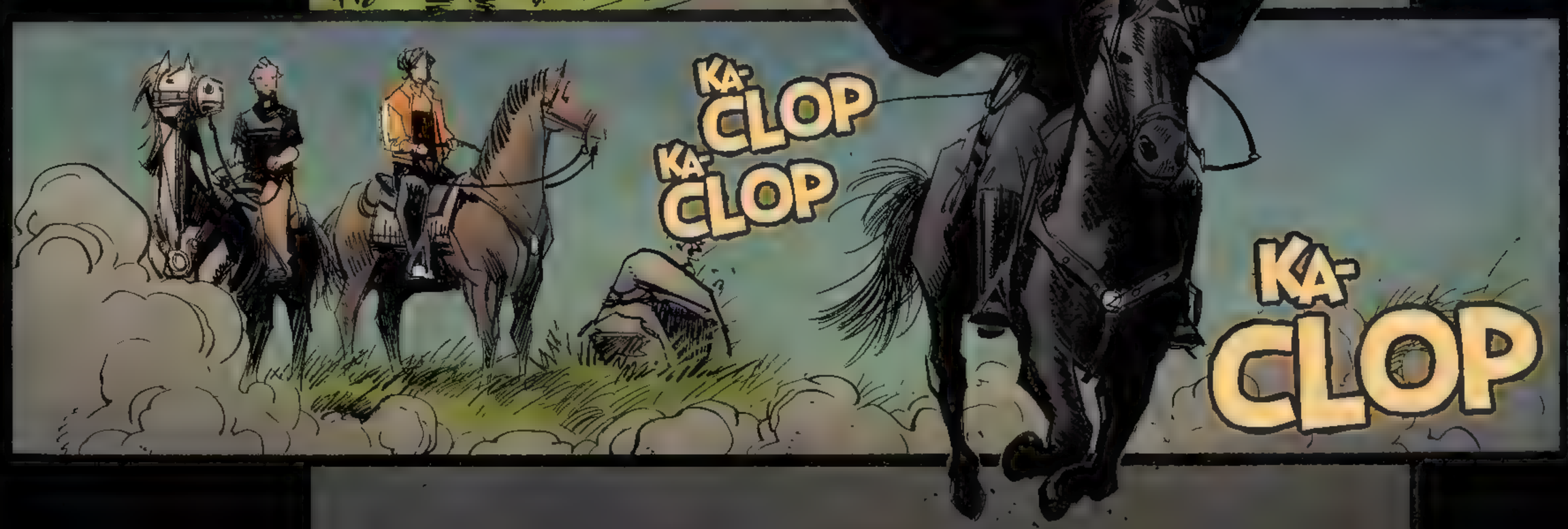
ALEJANDRO USED TO SAY THE SAME THING, FATHER.
THAT'S WHY HE MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL, AND LET ROJO INTO LA VEGA...

ALEJANDRO GAVE UP MOST OF HIS LAND TO THE CARTEL--MADE A LOT OF CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PEACE. IT WAS HIS GREATEST SIN, BUT HE FELT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT HIS PEOPLE.
WHEN I ARRIVED, THE FIRST THING HE TAUGHT ME WASN'T THE SWORD AND THE WHIP.
IT WAS TO MAKE ME UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE ALL SINNERS. AND WE MUST LOOK TO GOD FOR GUIDANCE.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE WAS OBSESSED WITH ZORRO.
IT HELPED HIM UNDERSTAND THAT SOMETIMES DOING THE RIGHT THING MEANS BREAKING THE RULES.
DAY OF THE DEAD WAS ALWAYS VERY SPECIAL FOR US--NOT ONLY WOULD WE USE THE RITUALS TO ATTRACT THE SPIRIT OF MY FATHER, WE WOULD ALSO TRY TO ATTRACT THE SPIRIT OF ZORRO.
FIRST WE'D BUILD OUR ALTAR...
...THEN WE'D COOK A BUNCH OF FOOD THAT MY FATHER AND ZORRO WOULD LIKE...
...AND THEN WE'D GO TO THE CHURCH, WHERE THEY BOTH DISAPPEARED.

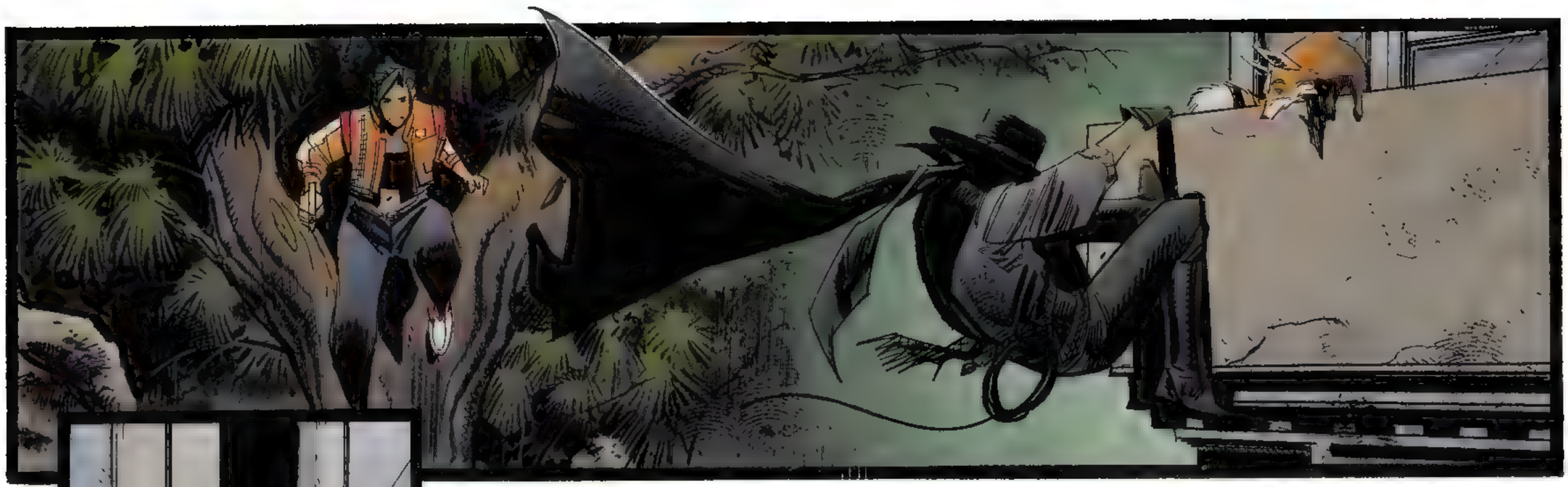
GOD BROUGHT ALEJANDRO AND I TOGETHER WITH ZORRO, HIS CLOAKED ANGEL.
SO FOR ME, ZORRO AND THE HOLY SPIRIT MEAN THE SAME THING.

HOPE.

DIEGO...


KA-CLOP
KA-CLOP
KA-CLOP

ROJO AND THE OTHERS ARE STILL IN THE VILLAGE LOOKING FOR THEM.
HE WANTS YOU AND THE OTHERS TO START CHECKING THE FARMS--
AND WHAT ABOUT HER?
SHE WAS CLOSE WITH ROSA. WE MIGHT NEED HER AS BAIT.
GIVE HER TO ME-- I'LL GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HER.
DON'T TOUCH HER.
REMEMBER, QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.
IF THINGS DON'T GO TO PLAN, WE'LL COVER TREJO AND HIS MEN FROM HERE.
GRACIAS, SEÑOR CEMENTARIO.
DIEGO, STAY CLOSE TO ME.
AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS DIEGO IS, BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE HIM CONFUSED WITH EL ZORRO.
GOD BE WITH YOU, ROSA.



DOWN THOSE STAIRS. TO THE RIGHT.

HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?
A FEW MINUTES.

ALMOST THERE...

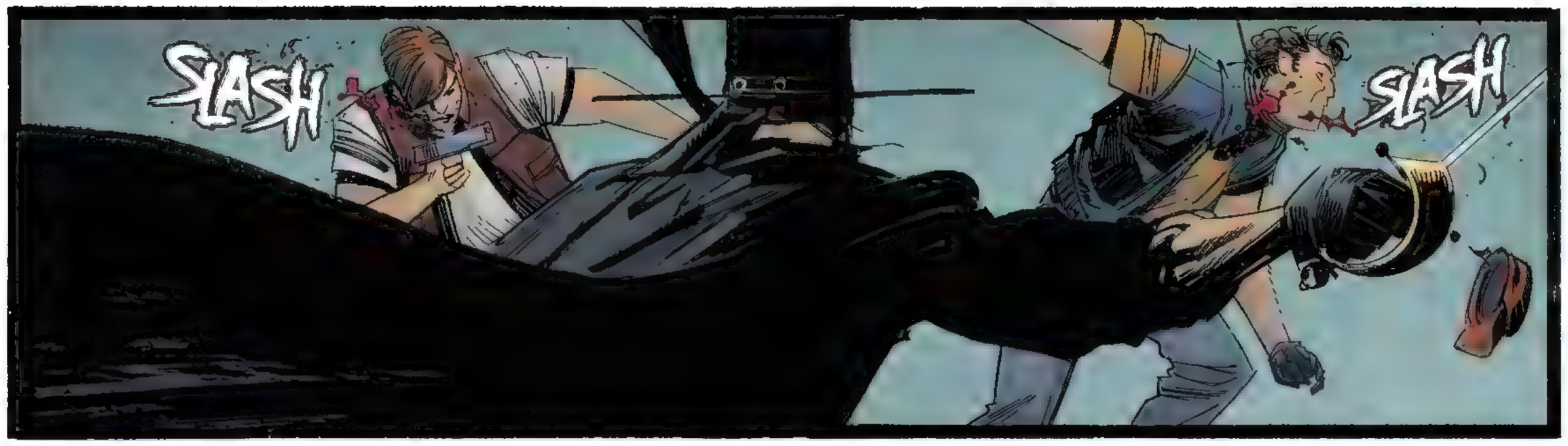
ROSA?

STAB

THUD
YOU HEAR THAT?

THWIP

GLIRK

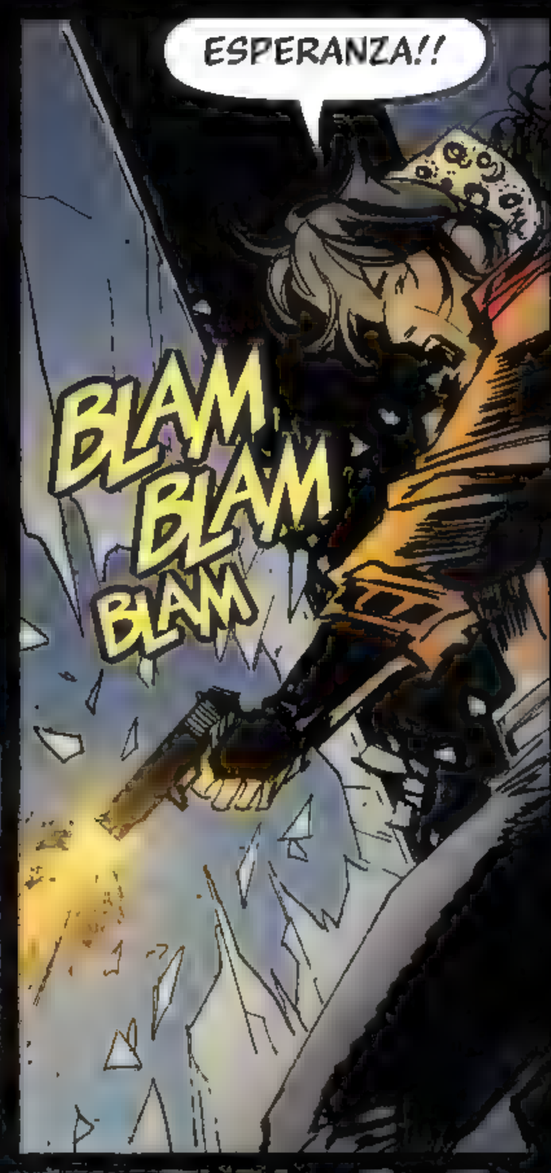

SLASH
SLASH

ONLY THREE? SUCH A SHAME.
I WAS HOPING FOR MORE.
I HAVE THE FILES--LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

ESPERANZA?!

...

ROSA!


ESPERANZA!!
BLAM BLAM BLAM

BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA

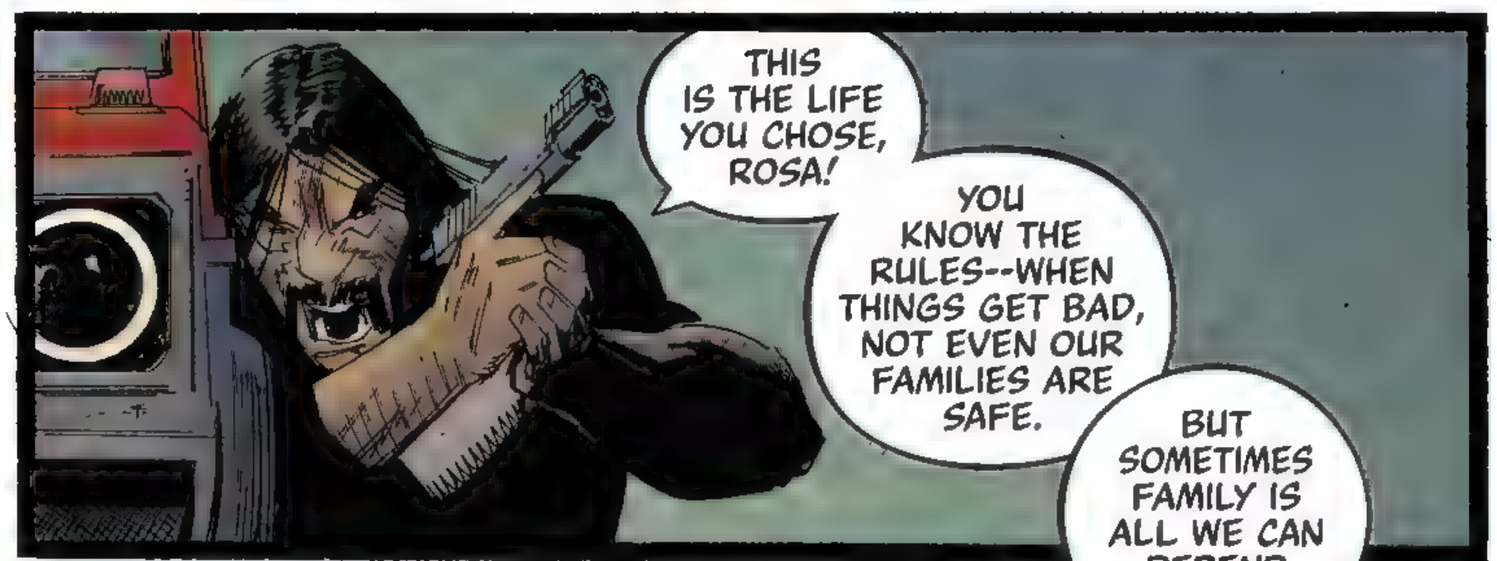
ARGH!

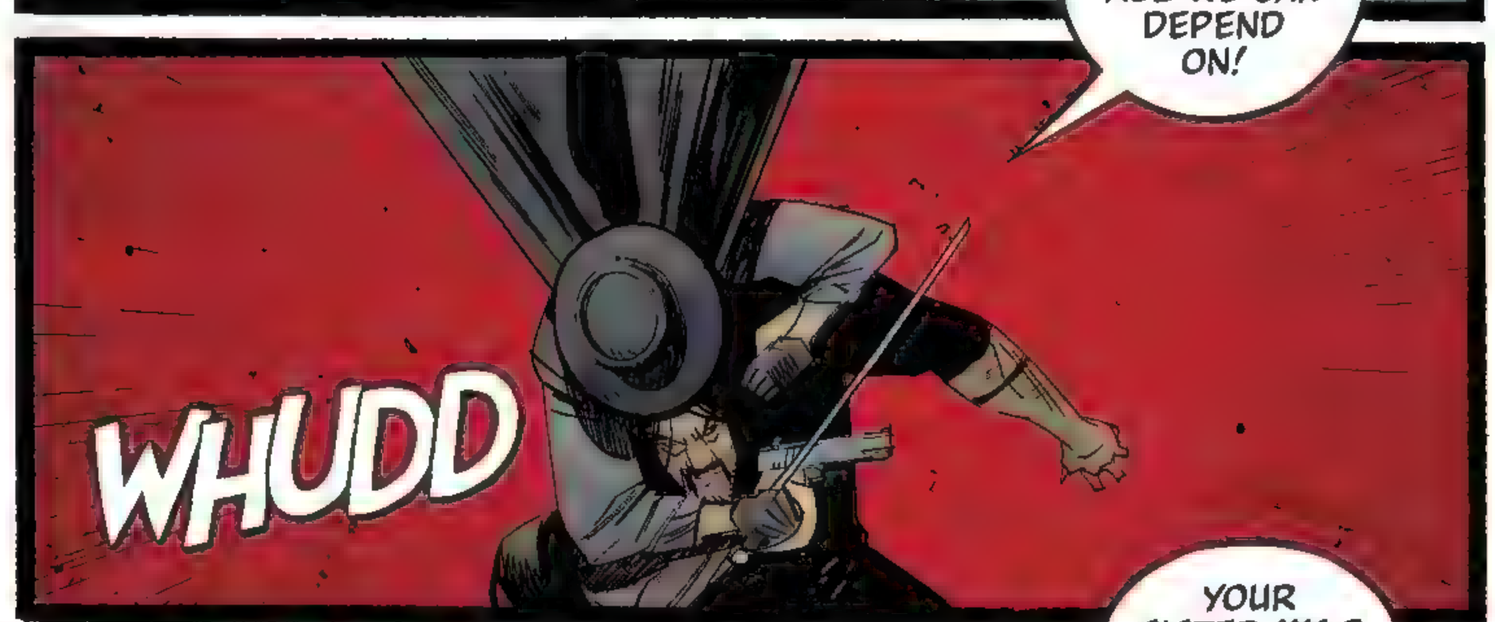
ROSA!

WHUDD

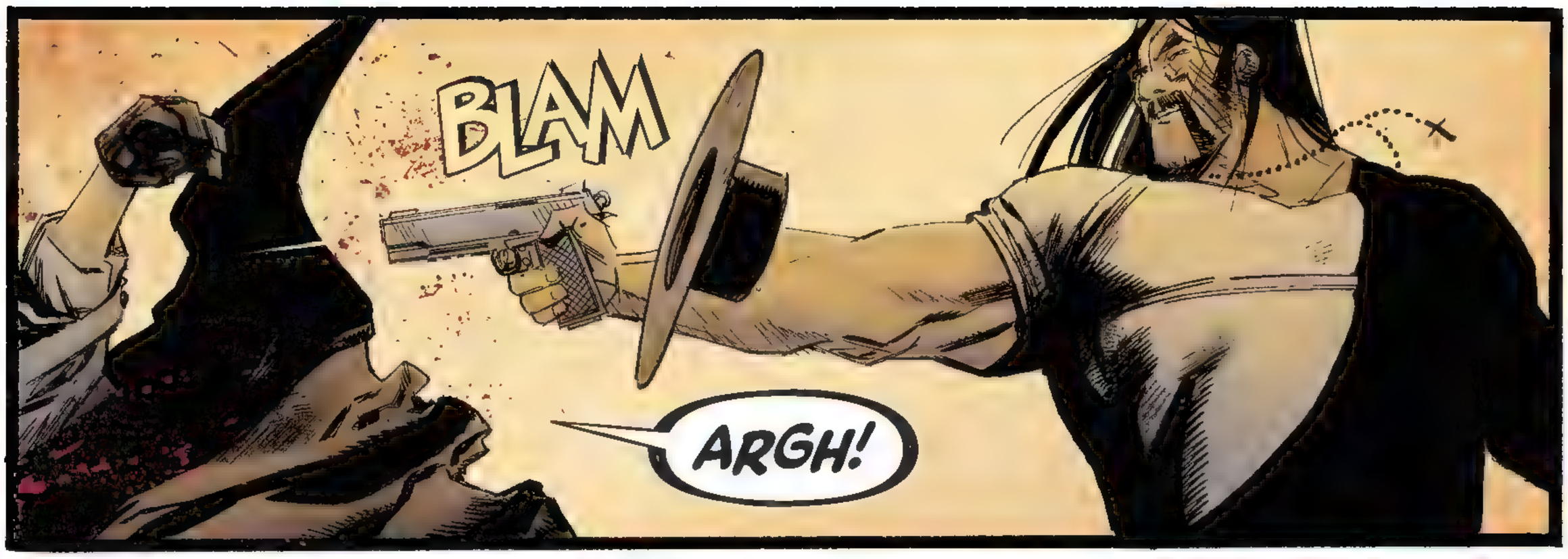
BRATTA BRATTA
BRATTA
BLAM

BRATTA
BRATTA
SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS, TREJO!


THIS IS THE LIFE YOU CHOSE, ROSA!
YOU KNOW THE RULES--WHEN THINGS GET BAD, NOT EVEN OUR FAMILIES ARE SAFE.
BUT SOMETIMES FAMILY IS ALL WE CAN DEPEND ON!


WHUDD
YOUR SISTER WAS MY FAMILY, DIEGO!

MY NAME ISN'T DIEGO!
IT'S EL ZORRO!


BLAM
ARGH!

DIEGO!! NO!

SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE THAT, ROSA.
BUT HE LEFT ME NO CHOICE. NEITHER OF YOU DID.

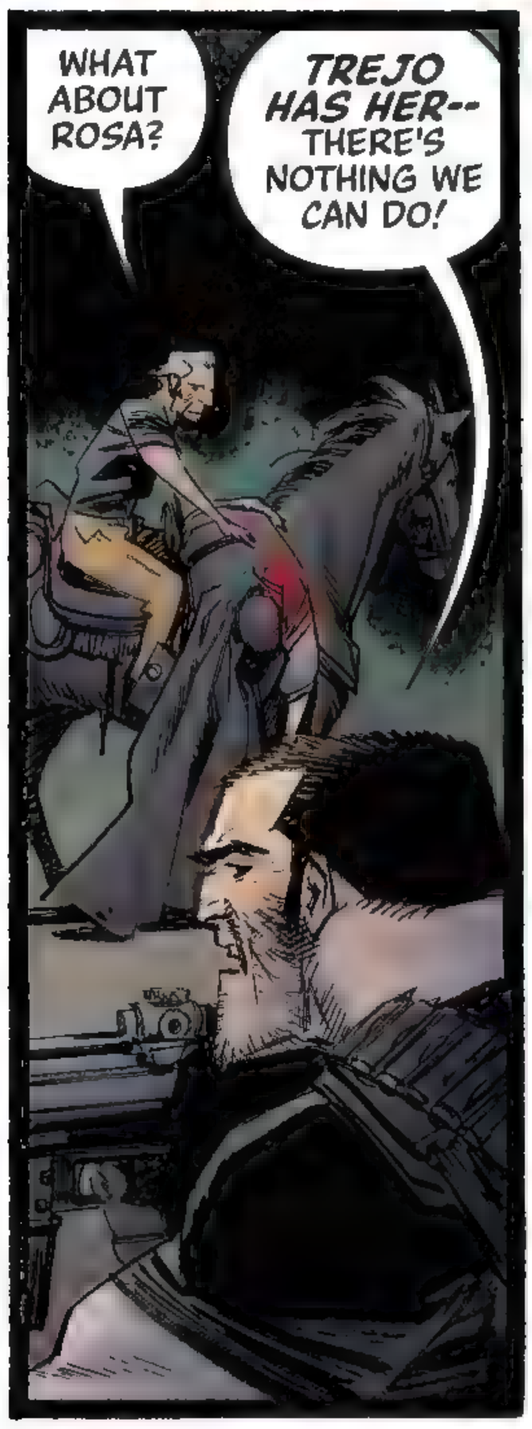
YOUR REVOLUTION IS OVER...

...LA VEGA BELONGS TO EL ROJO.
JEAN MURTH

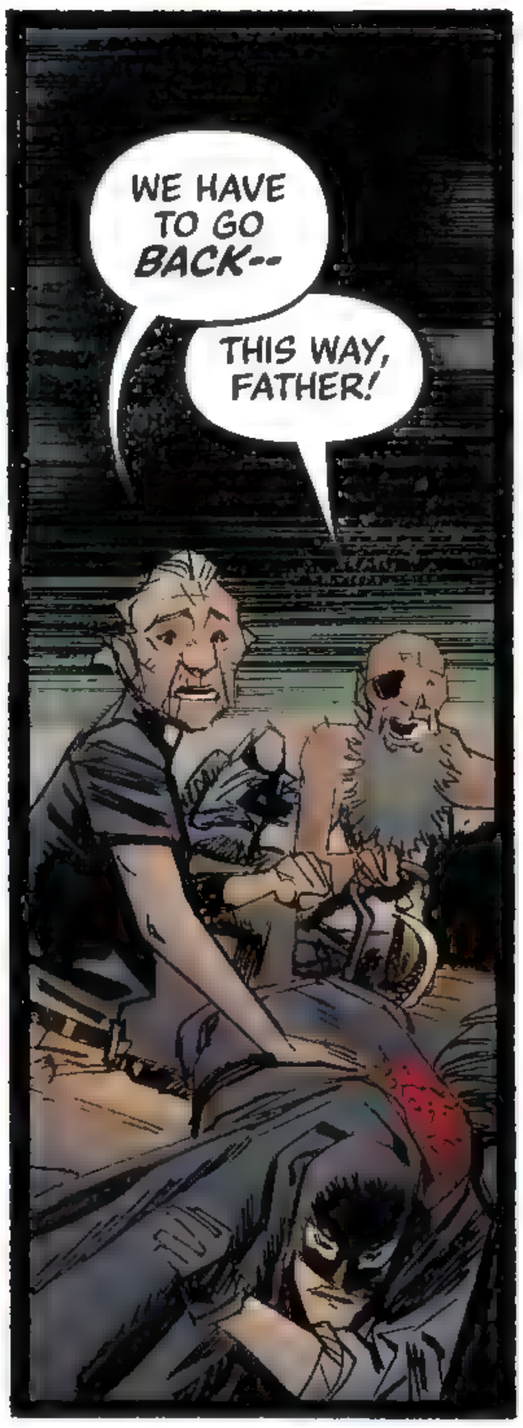
CHAPTER FOUR

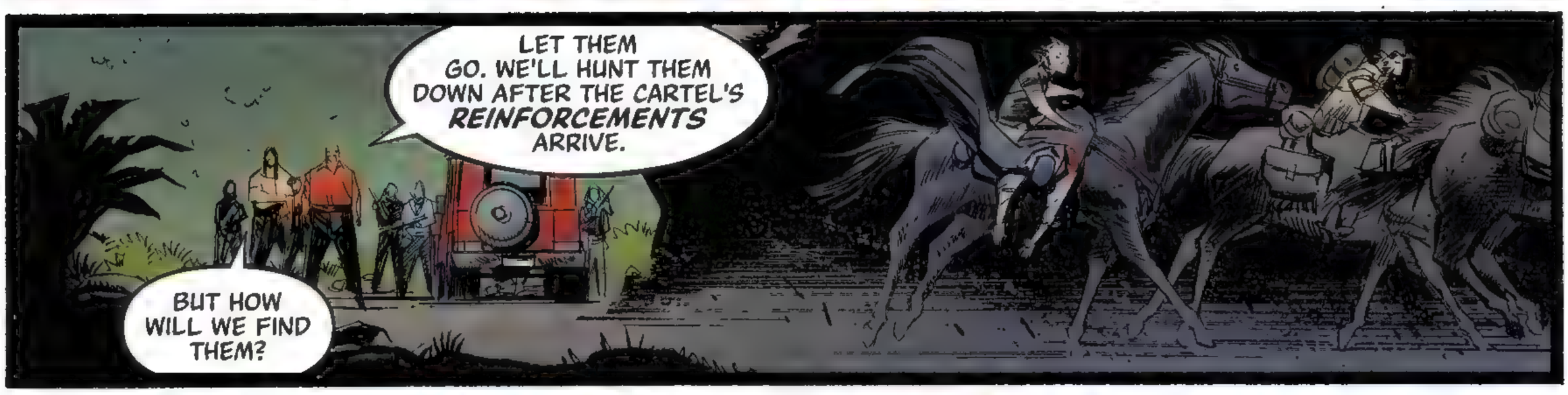
YOUR REVOLUTION IS OVER.
LA VEGA BELONGS TO EL ROJO.
BRATTA BRATTA
FATHER, GO GET DIEGO!
ZORRO! CAN YOU STAND?
...URRRGH...
...ROSA...
BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA BLAM
TOMÁS! IT'S ROJO!
BLAM-BLAM
BRATTA BRATTA

WE'RE OUTNUMBERED! WE NEED TO FALL BACK!
FATHER, GO GET TO THE HORSES--


WHAT ABOUT ROSA?
TREJO HAS HER-- THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!

BRATTA
BRATTA
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM


WE HAVE TO GO BACK--
THIS WAY, FATHER!


LET THEM GO. WE'LL HUNT THEM DOWN AFTER THE CARTEL'S REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.
BUT HOW WILL WE FIND THEM?

I'M SURE WE CAN CONVINCE ROSA TO TELL US WHERE THEY'RE HEADED...
...AND WHY THEY CAME HERE.

HOW IS HE?
LOOKS LIKE THE BULLET MISSED HIS HEART AND WENT CLEAN THROUGH HIS BODY.
I CAN PATCH HIM UP, BUT HE NEEDS TO LIE STILL.
SO NO MORE HORSES.
BREAK OUT THE RAFTS.
SI, SEÑOR CEMENTERIO.
WHAT ABOUT ROSA-- WE'RE JUST LEAVING HER BEHIND?!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT ROSA RIGHT NOW.
OUR BEST BET IS TO SPLIT UP, THEN REGROUP BACK IN THE VILLAGE.
SOME OF MY MEN WILL TAKE THE HORSES--THE REST OF US WILL USE THE RIVER TO AVOID THE ROADS AND THE POLICE.
AND THEN WE GET ROSA IN THE MORNING?
I'M SORRY, FATHER...

"...BUT I DOUBT SHE'LL BE ALIVE BY THEN."
WHERE ARE THE MEN YOU WERE SENDING?
...
I HAVEN'T LOST CONTROL. I JUST NEED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO PUT THINGS BACK IN ORDER.
... SI, SEÑOR.
...
SI, I UNDER-STAND.
WHAT DID THEY SAY?
DON'T ASK.
THE CARTEL ISN'T SENDING REINFORCEMENTS, ARE THEY?
FIRST THEY SUSPECTED ROJO HAD A RAT WHO WAS WORKING WITH THE DEA.
THEN THEY WATCHED HIM LOSE CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE VALLEY, DISRUPTING THE WHOLE OPIUM OPERATION.
THEN THEY FIND OUT THAT ONE OF THE CARTEL'S MOST WANTED MEN--EL CEMETERIO--WAS LIVING UNDER ROJO'S NOSE FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS.
I'M GUESSING THEY'RE COMPLETELY FED UP, AND IF ROJO CAN'T FIX THIS HIMSELF, THEN THEY'LL REPLACE HIM.
PERRA ESTUPIDA!
THOKK

YOU KNEW THE REBELS AND THE VILLAGERS DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST MY MEN, SO YOU TRIED TO GET THE DEA TO FIGHT THE BATTLE FOR YOU!

I DON'T NEED THE DEA TO FIGHT YOU.
EVERY-THING YOU'VE DONE HAS UNITED ALL OF LA VEGA AGAINST YOU.
AND IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE MY BROTHER HAS HIS REVENGE.

THOK!

ALL THIS NONSENSE OVER A RAT LIKE ALEJANDRO.
COUGH COUGH
OR IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME?

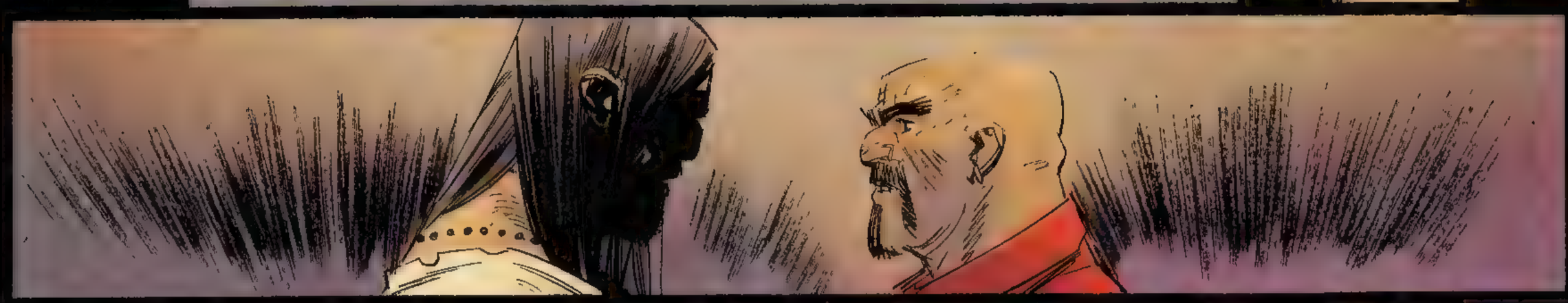
THUD
YOU KILLED THEIR FATHER, SEÑOR.
TWENTY YEARS AGO.
ANTONIO. THE ACTOR WHO PLAYED ZORRO.

THAT WAS THEIR FATHER?!
YOU KNEW?

YES.
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN.
ROSA WAS WORKING FOR ME LONG BEFORE I STARTED WORKING FOR YOU, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO BETRAY HER.

SO YOU BETRAYED ME INSTEAD?
I ONLY JUST FOUND OUT DIEGO WAS HER BROTHER. AND I HAD NO IDEA WHAT ALEJANDRO MEANT TO THEM.

SHE SHOT YOU IN THE BACK, TREJO!
I KNOW, SEÑOR--
WHAT ABOUT YOUR BROTHERS? THE PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN LOYAL TO YOU FOR YEARS--



TAKE HER INTO THE OTHER ROOM, AND BEAT THE TRUTH OUT OF HER UNTIL SHE GIVES US EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW.
IN THE MORNING, WE'LL USE HER AS BAIT FOR DIEGO AND THE OTHERS.
AND ONCE THEY'RE ALL DEAD, I'M GOING TO WATCH TREJO PUT A BULLET IN HER SKULL.

THE BLEEDING HAS STOPPED.
PRAISE THE LORD.
...ROSA...
...URRRGH... WHERE'S ROSA?
STAY STILL, DIEGO. TRY AND REST.
...ROSA...
...BANDIDO...
BANDIDO-- THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION...

"...WHERE IS BANDIDO?"

THOKK

THAT'S ENOUGH! SHE OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THE DEA. OR WHERE HER BROTHER IS!

YOU LOST YOUR NERVE, TREJO. THE BOSS ASKED YOU TO DO THIS-- NOT ME.

SO EITHER LET ME DO THIS MY WAY, OR LEAVE.

CHEW CHEW

THAT'S RIGHT, WALK AWAY ALFEÑIQUE...

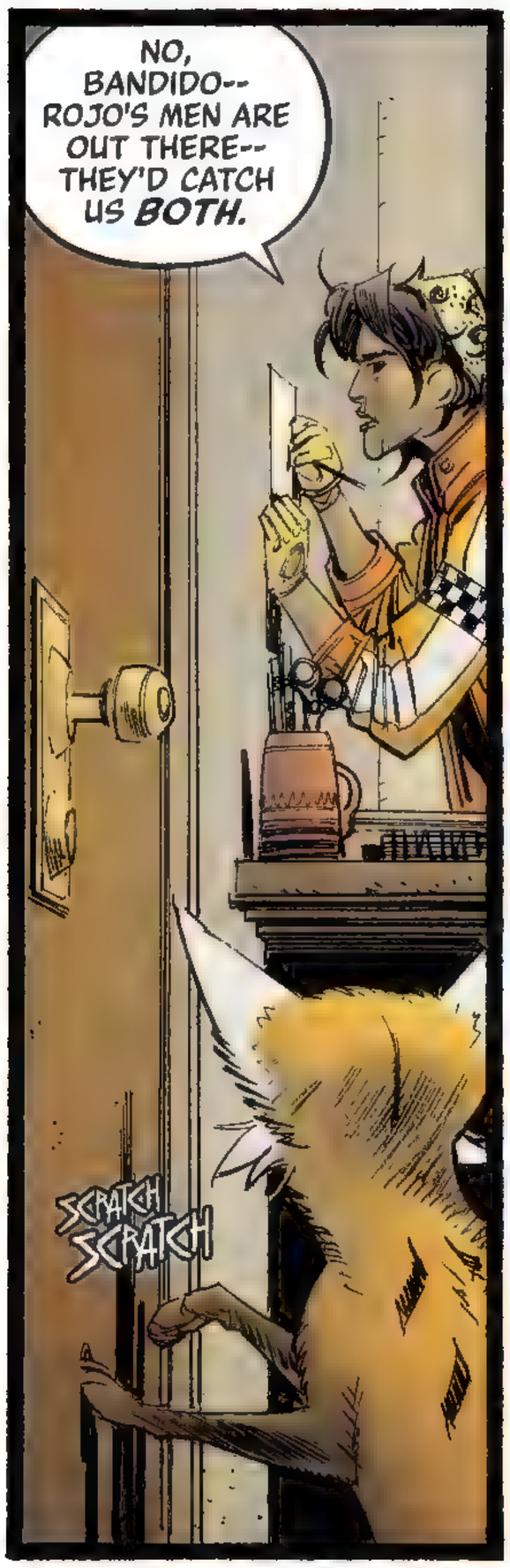
...BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE THIS NEXT PART.

ARGH!

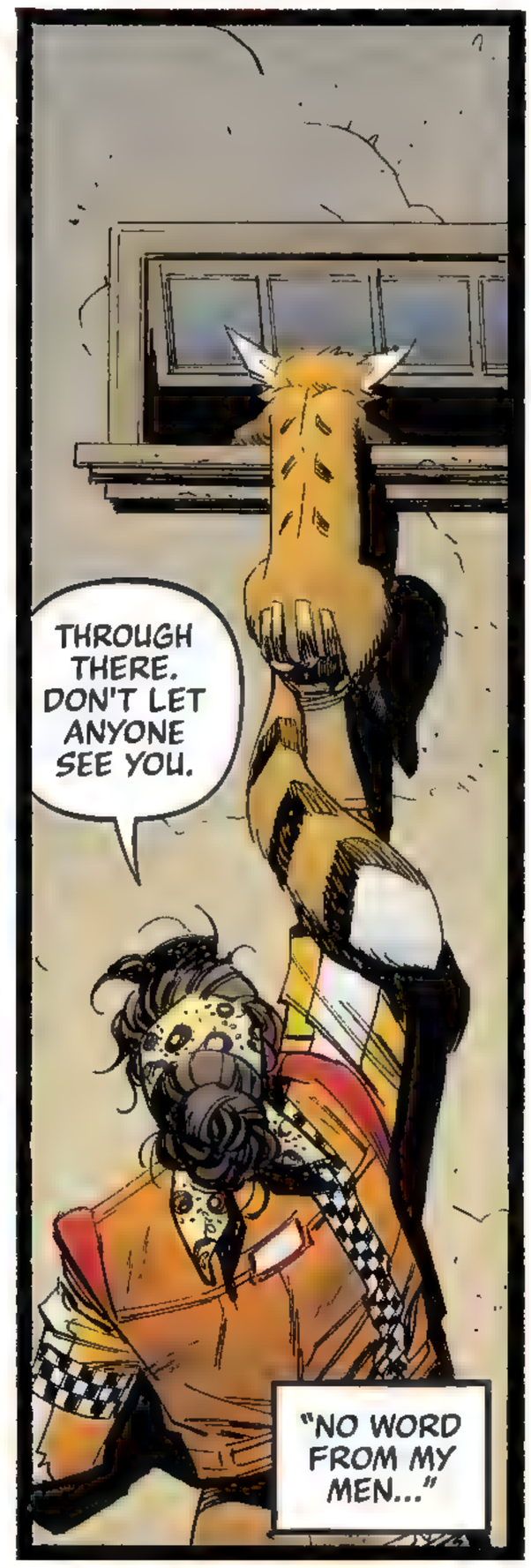
STAB

WHUDD

BLADE TO THE HEAD. GROSS.
DIEGO MAKES THAT LOOK SO EASY.


NO, BANDIDO-- ROJO'S MEN ARE OUT THERE-- THEY'D CATCH US BOTH.
SCRATCH SCRATCH

I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA.
HERE. TAKE THIS TO DIEGO.


THROUGH THERE. DON'T LET ANYONE SEE YOU.
"NO WORD FROM MY MEN..."

...I EVEN CHECKED OUR SAFE HOUSE, OR WHAT WAS LEFT OF IT. ROJO'S MEN TOOK EVERY-THING.
SO NOW WHAT?

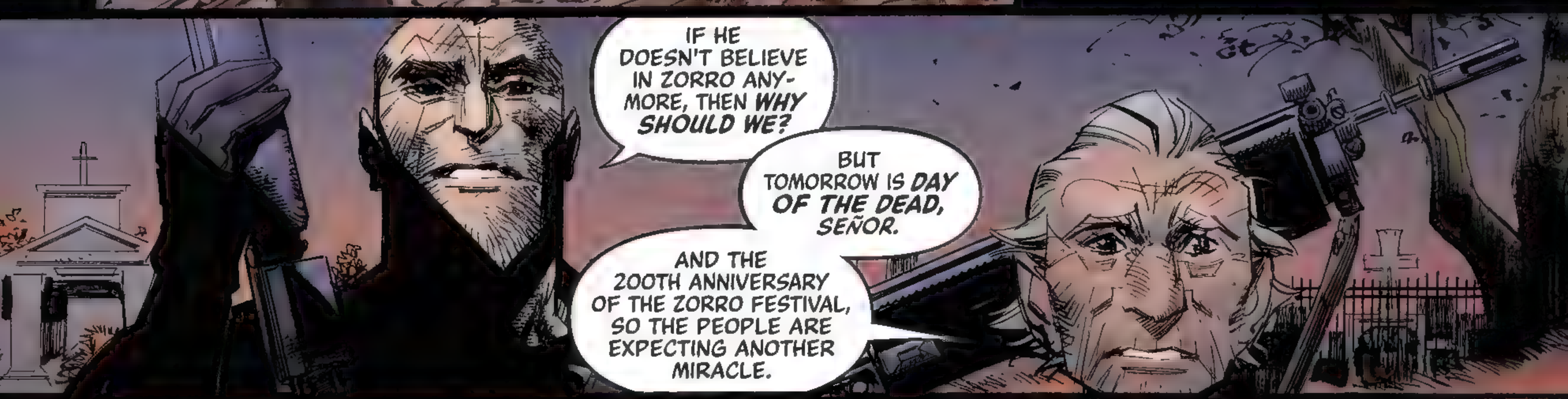
WITHOUT THE DEA, WE STAND NO CHANCE AGAINST THE CARTEL'S REINFORCEMENTS.

WHAT ABOUT THE VILLAGERS?
THEY'RE NOT SOLDIERS, FATHER. THE ONLY THING THEY CAN DO NOW IS HELP SNEAK US OUT OF THE VALLEY--
WE'RE GIVING UP? WHAT ABOUT ROSA?! AND WHAT ABOUT ALL THE MEN THAT STOOD WITH YOU?
SEÑOR ZORRO! YOU'RE AWAKE!
YES, FATHER.

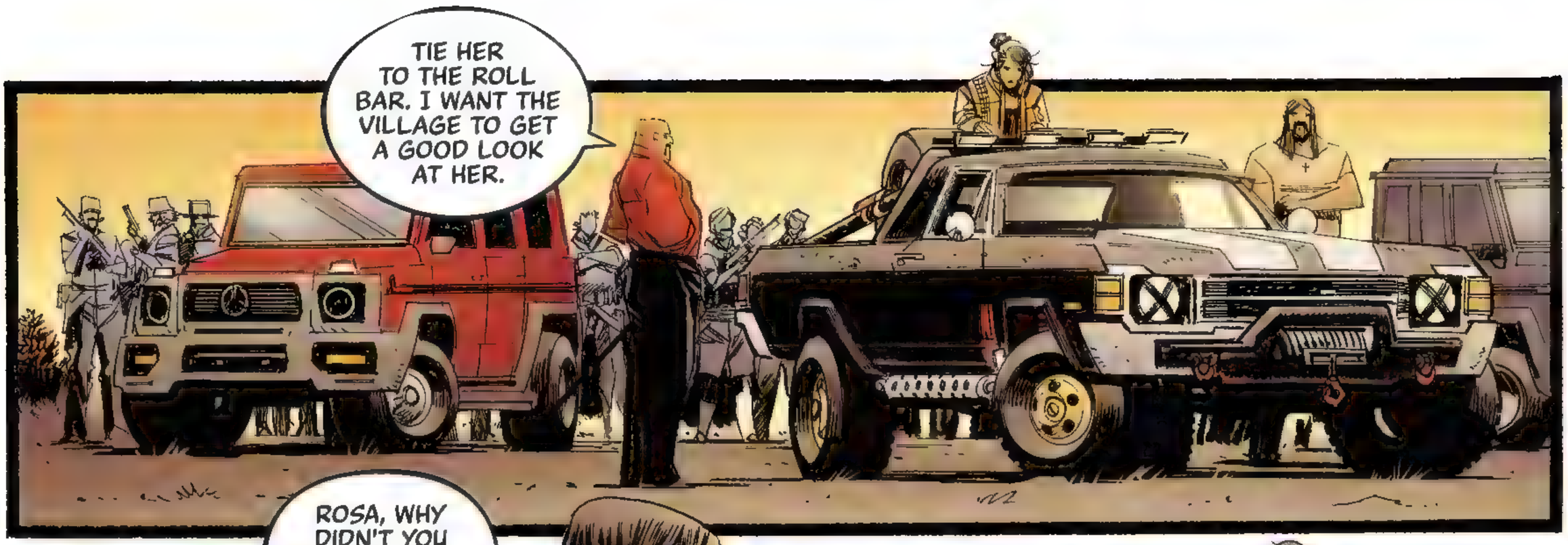
PERHAPS YOU'RE GIVING UP TOO SOON, SEÑOR CEMENTERIO.
AFTER ALL, WITH THE HELP OF ZORRO--
KNOCK
DON'T CALL ME THAT ANYMORE.

ZORRO WOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU ALL DOWN.
ZORRO WOULDN'T HAVE LOST.
I HEARD EVERYTHING YOU SAID-- THERE'S NO HOPE OF BEATING ROJO AND HIS MEN...

...THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS TRY AND SAVE ROSA...
...BY TURNING MYSELF IN.
BUT HE'LL KILL YOU, SEÑOR! CERTAINLY, WE STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF FIGHTING--
NO, I CAN'T ASK YOU TO FIGHT WITH ME ANY-MORE.
I'M GOING ALONE.
DIEGO, PLEASE--
LET HIM GO, FATHER.


IF HE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN ZORRO ANY-MORE, THEN WHY SHOULD WE?
BUT TOMORROW IS DAY OF THE DEAD, SEÑOR.
AND THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZORRO FESTIVAL, SO THE PEOPLE ARE EXPECTING ANOTHER MIRACLE.

I'M NOT SURE THEIR PRAYERS WILL BE ENOUGH.
YOU NEED TO HAVE MORE FAITH, TOMÁS.
IF ANYONE CAN APPRECIATE THE POWER OF A CEMETERY, IT WOULD BE YOU.
BANDIDO! YOU'RE ALIVE!
LICK LICK
WHAT'S ATTACHED TO YOUR LEG?
LOOKS LIKE A NOTE.
IT'S FROM ROSA.
SHE'S STILL ALIVE?
THE CARTEL HAS TURNED ON ROJO. THERE ARE NO REINFORCEMENTS COMING. AND HE ONLY HAS AROUND TWENTY MEN LEFT.
THEY PLAN ON BRINGING HER INTO THE VILLAGE TOMORROW, AS BAIT.
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HANDLE THAT MANY, IF WE GET THE HELP OF THE VILLAGERS.
BUT YOU SAID THEY'RE NOT FIGHTERS!
WE WANTED A MIRACLE, FATHER?
THEN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT.


TIE HER TO THE ROLL BAR. I WANT THE VILLAGE TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT HER.

ROSA, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME DIEGO WAS YOUR BROTHER?
IF I KNEW WHO HE WAS-- IF I KNEW WHAT HE *MEANT* TO YOU--I WOULD HAVE TRIED TO SAVE YOU BOTH FROM ROJO THE NIGHT ALEJANDRO WAS KILLED.

I'VE SEEN YOU DO A LOT OF BAD THINGS, TREJO. AWFUL, VIOLENT THINGS.
I GUESS I ASSUMED THERE WAS NOTHING GOOD LEFT.

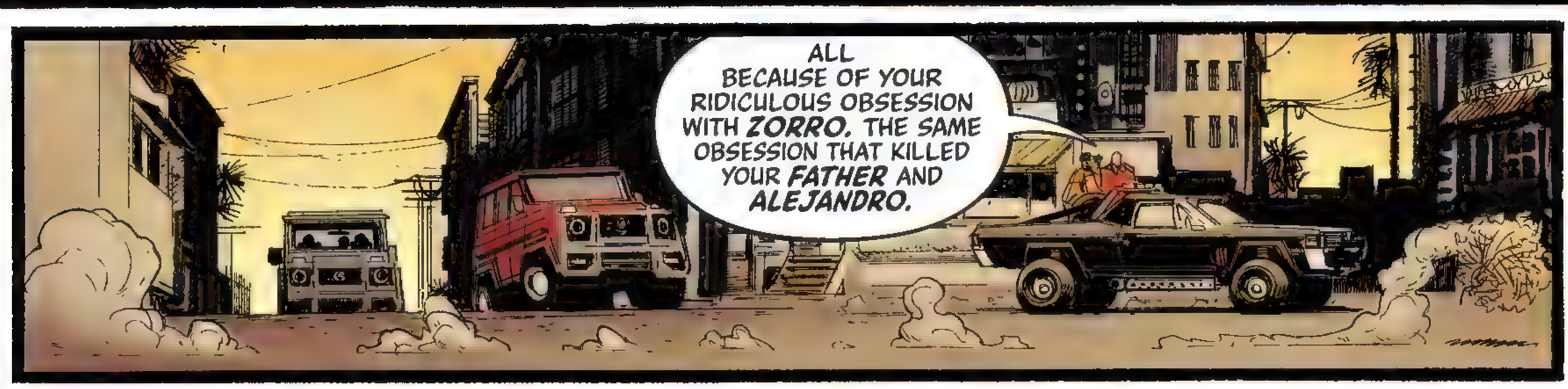
I THOUGHT I WAS YOUR BROTHER.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS ENOUGH.

YOU *SHOT* MY BROTHER, TREJO. *HE MIGHT BE DEAD.*
I COULD NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THAT.

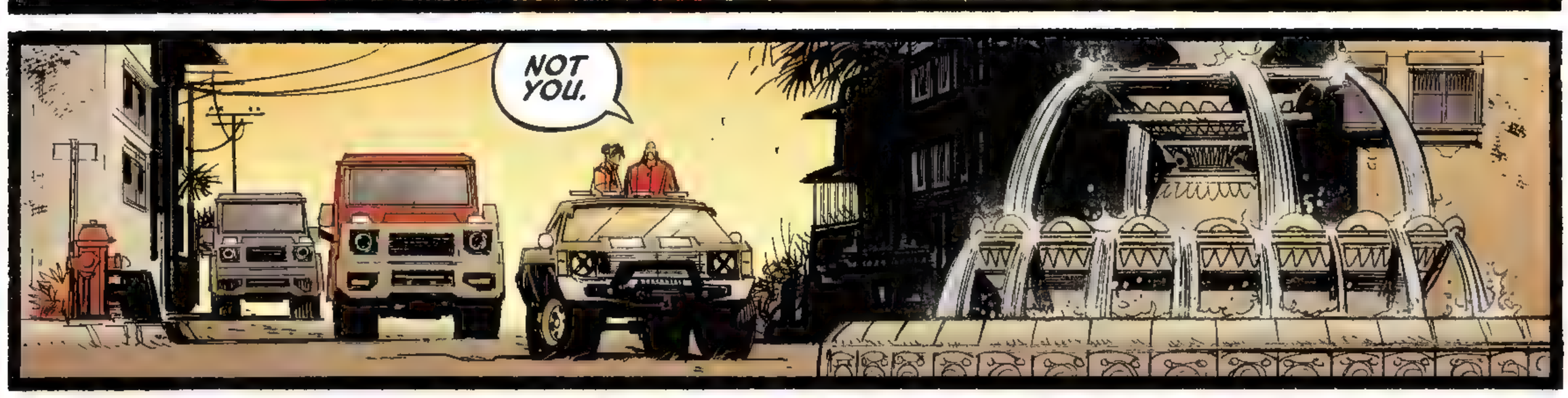
ROSA...

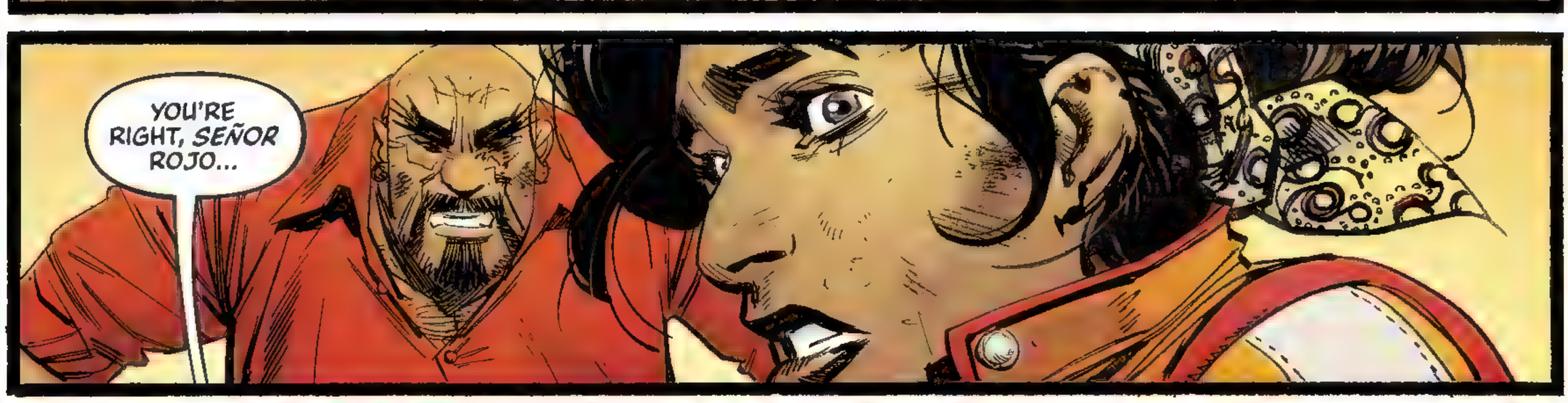
READY?

DIEGO DE LA VEGA!
YOU MIGHT THINK YOU'RE THE SAVIOR OF THESE PEOPLE, BUT ALL YOU'VE BROUGHT IS PAIN.
HOW MANY LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST, AND HOW MUCH FEAR HAS BEEN SPREAD? AND WHAT KIND OF HOPE CAN THE LORD OFFER THESE PEOPLE IF THEY NO LONGER HAVE A CHURCH FROM WHICH TO PRAY?


ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR RIDICULOUS OBSESSION WITH ZORRO. THE SAME OBSESSION THAT KILLED YOUR FATHER AND ALEJANDRO.

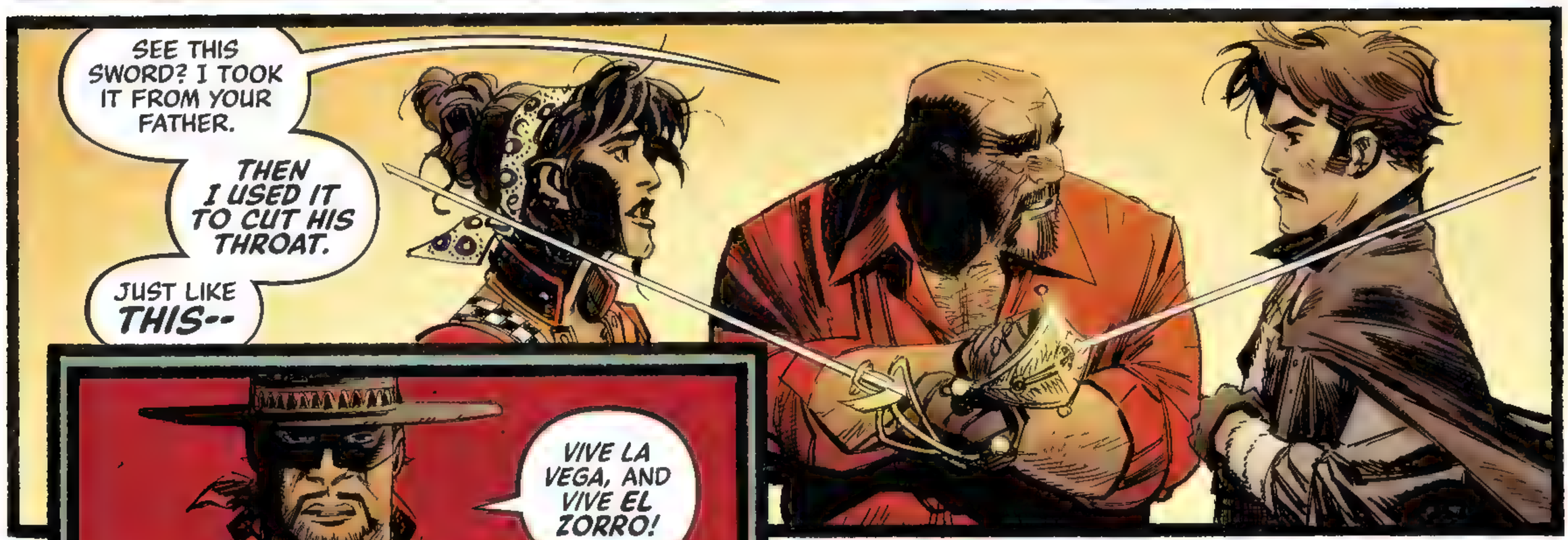
LIKE YOU, I SWORE AN OATH TO PROTECT THIS VALLEY.
BECAUSE I AM HER TRUE SAVIOR.


NOT YOU.

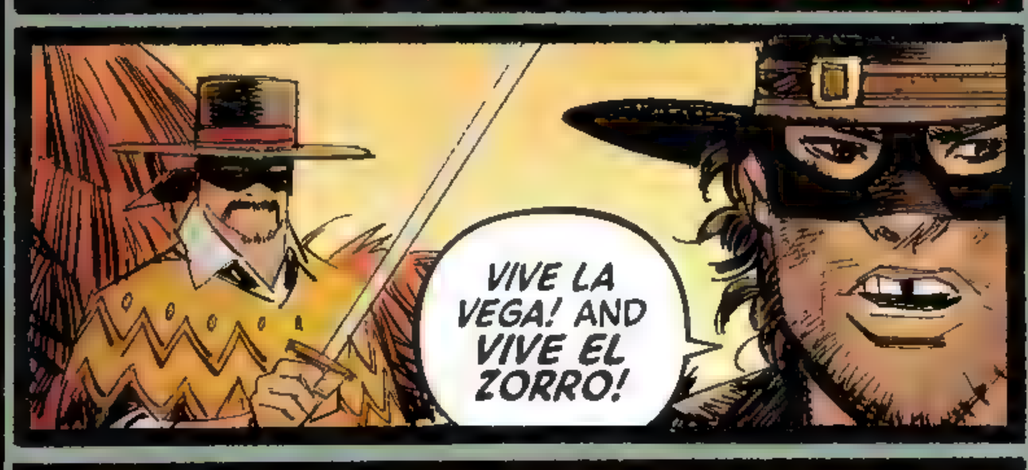

YOU'RE RIGHT, SEÑOR ROJO...

...I AM NOT ZORRO.
HE LEFT LA VEGA *LONG AGO.* AND WITH HIM, ANY HOPE OF FREEDOM THESE PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE HAD.
I THOUGHT I COULD LIBERATE THE VALLEY. I THOUGHT I COULD AVENGE MY FATHER.
BUT I FAILED.
AND I AM CLEARLY NOT WORTHY OF HOLDING *ZORRO'S SWORD.*
SO IN EXCHANGE FOR LETTING ROSA GO, I GIVE IT TO *YOU.*
JUST PROMISE NOT TO HURT HER. *OR ANY OF THESE PEOPLE.*

TREJO, CUT HER FREE.
STAND HER NEXT TO DIEGO.


SEE THIS SWORD? I TOOK IT FROM YOUR FATHER.
THEN I USED IT TO CUT HIS THROAT.
JUST LIKE THIS--

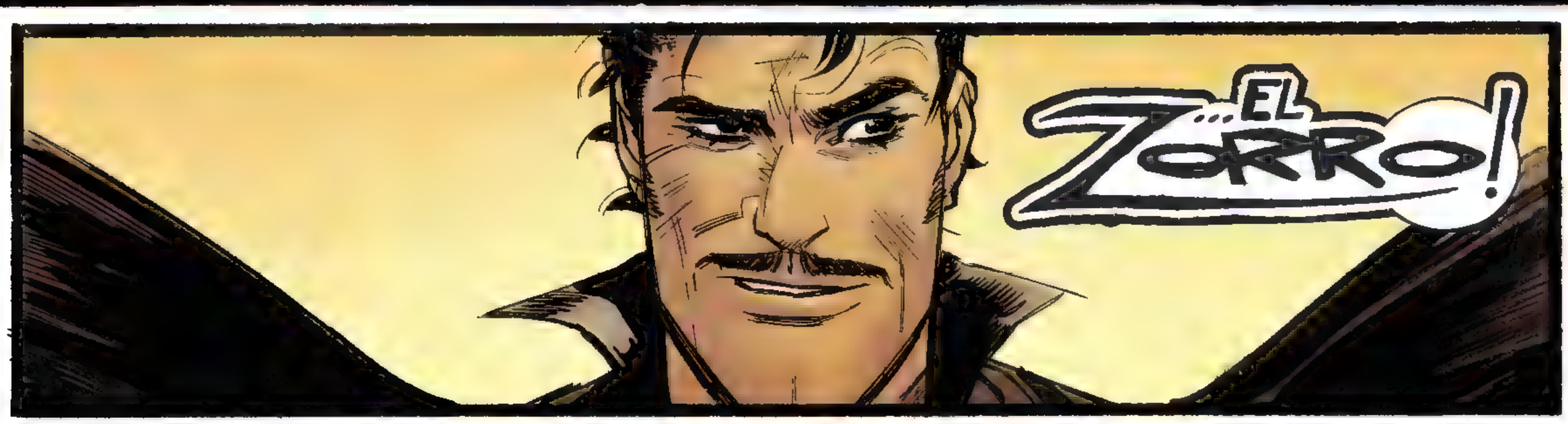
VIVE LA VEGA, AND VIVE EL ZORRO!


VIVE LA VEGA! AND VIVE EL ZORRO!

VIVE LA VEGA!
VIVE EL MEXICO!

VIVE EL ZORRO!

VIVE THE SAVIOR OF LA VEGA...

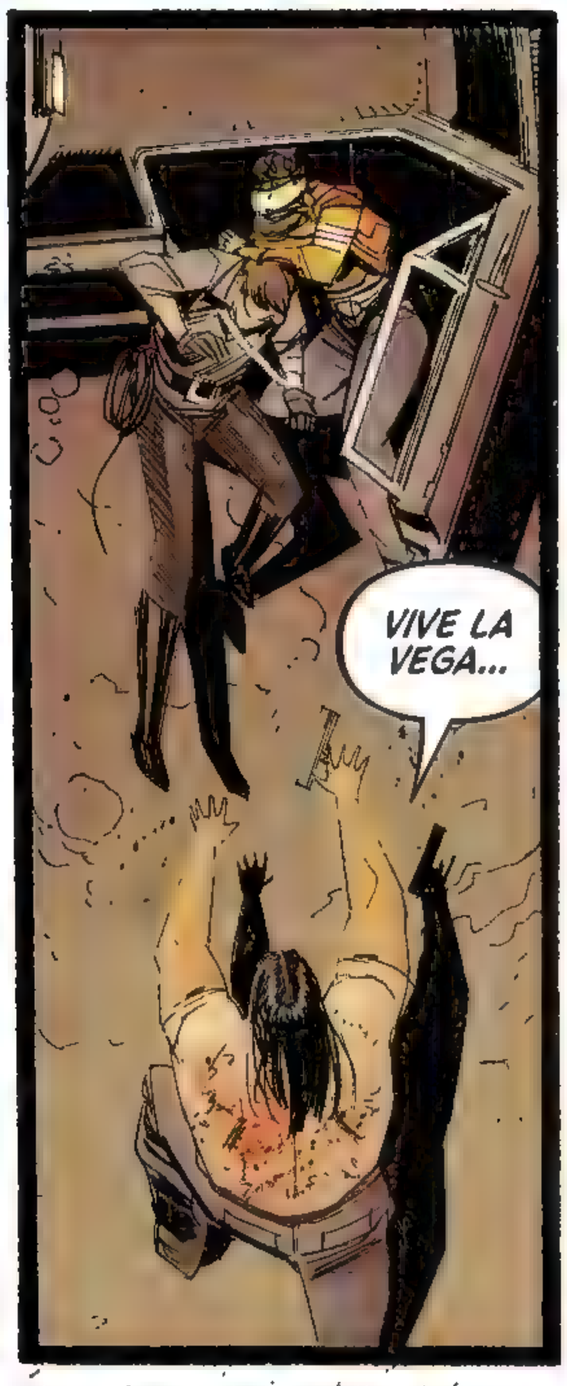

...EL ZORRO!

BRATTA
BLAM
BLAM
IT'S A DISTRACTION-- SHOOT DIEGO AND ROSA!
BLAM
BLAM

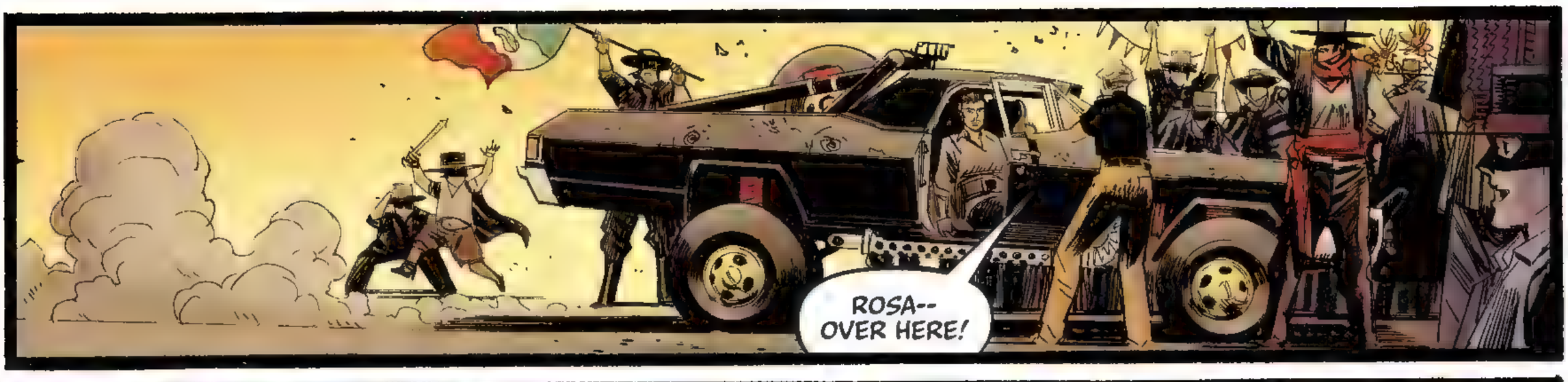
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

TREJO-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
EARNING YOUR FORGIVENESS.

HERE.

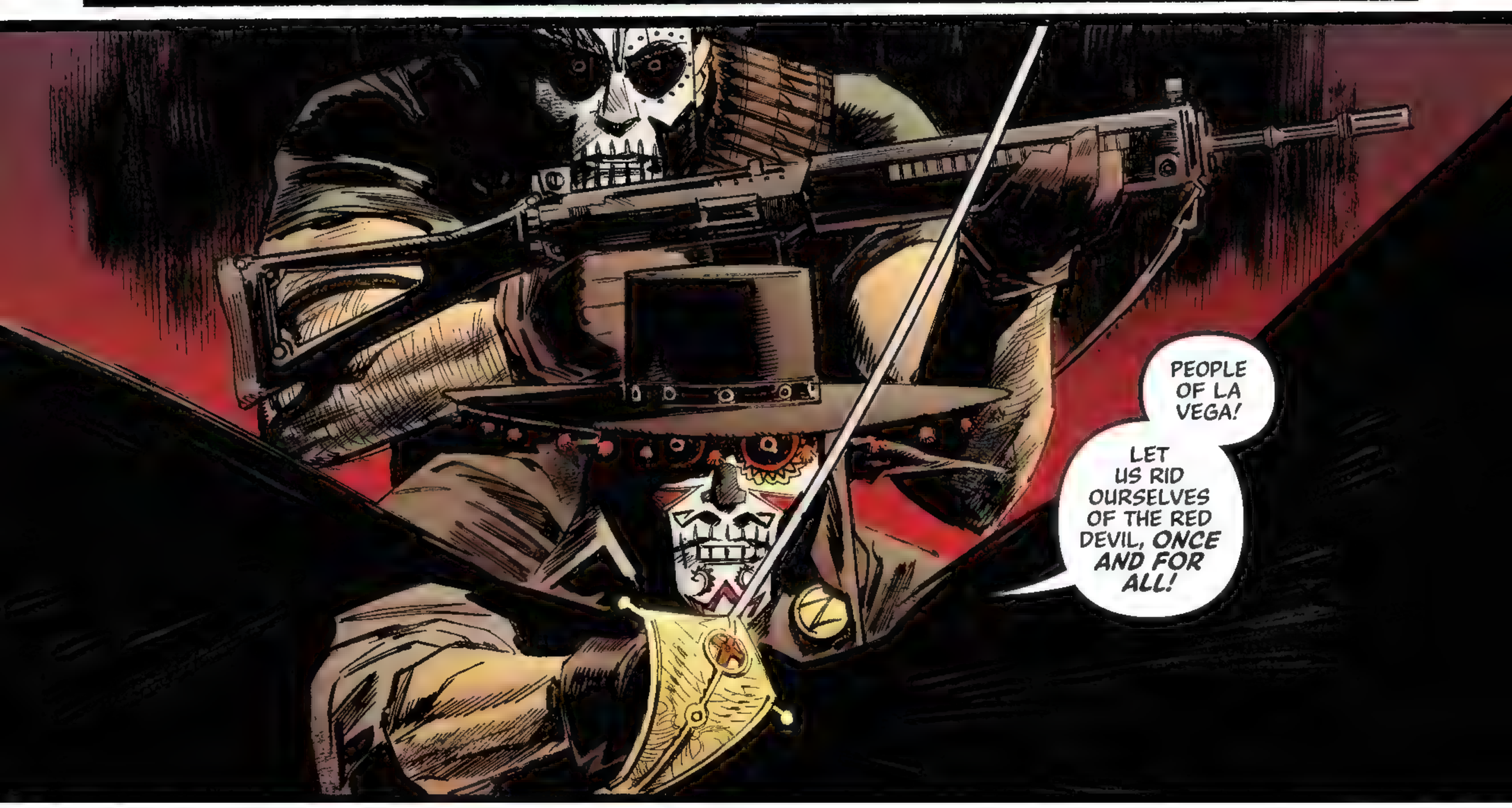

VIVE LA VEGA...

...AND VIVE EL ZORRO!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM


ROSA-- OVER HERE!

QUICKLY-- THIS WILL HELP YOU BLEND IN.
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

BLAM BLAM BLAM
BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA
I BELIEVE THIS IS YOURS, SEÑOR.

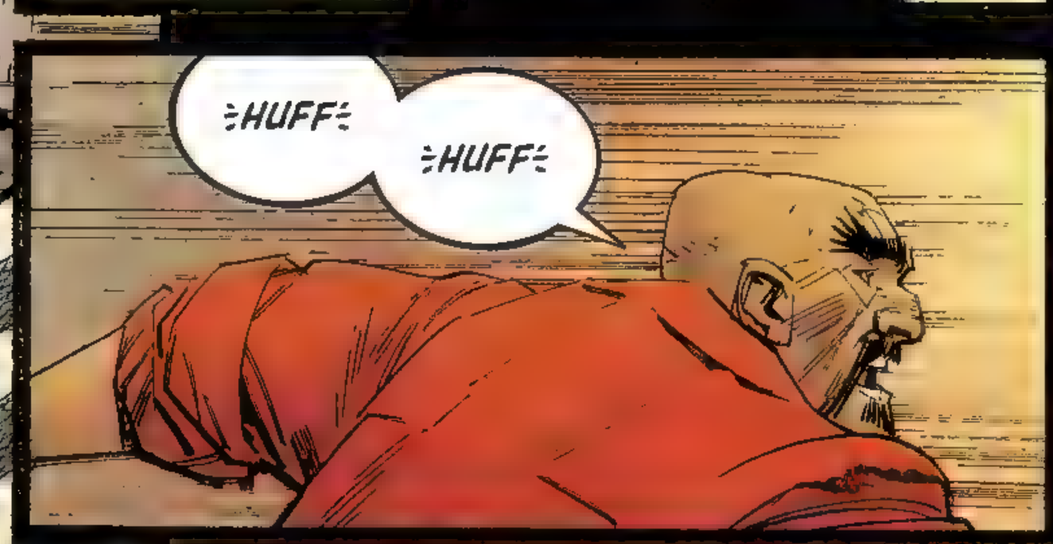

PEOPLE OF LA VEGA!
LET US RID OURSELVES OF THE RED DEVIL, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

LEAP
VIVE LA VEGA!
AND VIVE EL ZORRO!
VROOM
ZORRO FESTIVAL
KILL ZORRO!
WHICH ZORRO?!
BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA
THERE'S TOO MANY!
WHERE THE HELL ARE THE POLICE?
WHY AREN'T YOU DOING ANYTHING?!
IT'S DAY OF THE DEAD, SEÑOR ROJO.
AND THERE'S NO LAW TO STOP THESE PEOPLE FROM CELEBRATING.
POLICIA

VROOOOM
BLAM

WHUD

STAB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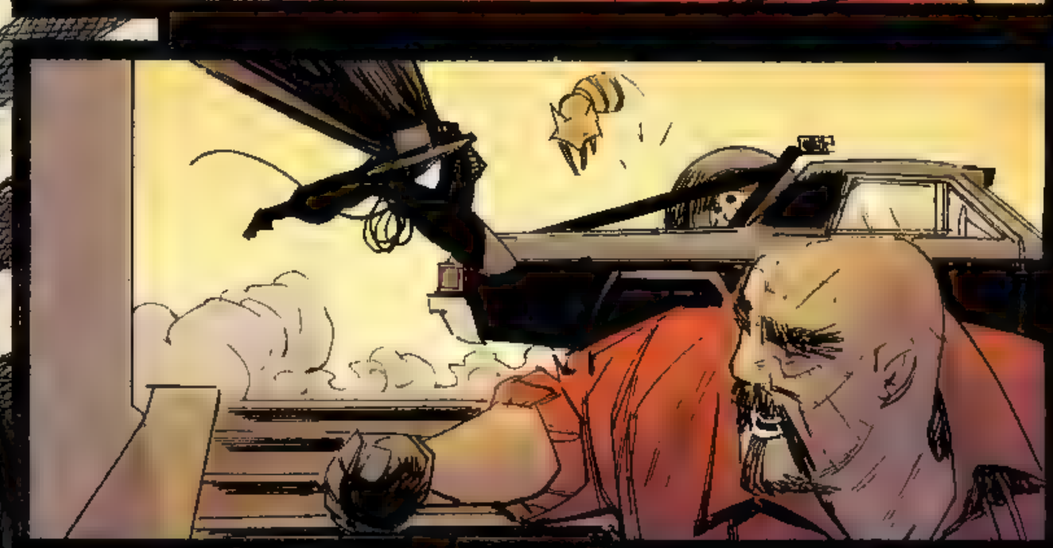


WHUD

YOU MUST BE PLEASED, DIEGO.
ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU WANTED-- AN EPIC DUEL?
THE CHANCE FOR ZORRO TO AVENGE HIS FATHER AND RECLAIM HIS SWORD?
IT'LL BE A FINE ENDING INDEED, SEÑOR ROJO.
WE BOTH KNOW YOU'RE NOT REALLY THE CURSE OF CAPISTRANO.
YOU'RE JUST PRETENDING-- USING THE MASK TO HIDE WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
AND WHAT'S THAT?
A LOST ORPHAN, ASHAMED OF HIS BLOODLINE: A SISTER WHO WAS A CRIMINAL, AND A PATHETIC FATHER WHO FELL UNDER THE DELUSIONAL SPELL OF A FEEBLE, OLD MAN--
YOUR BLADE WON'T CUT ME, AND NEITHER WILL YOUR POISONOUS WORDS, SEÑOR.
HAVE YOU NO HONOR--WHY NOT DIE FIGHTING LIKE A GENTLEMEN?
UNLIKE YOU, I KNOW WHAT I REALLY AM. AND IT'S NO GENTLEMEN.
WHY ELSE FIGHT A MAN WITH ONLY ONE ARM?
WHO SAID ANY-THING ABOUT HAVING ONLY ONE ARM?
NO!

AND NOW YOU WILL FEEL THE PAIN OF LA VEGA, SEÑOR!
HACK
DESERRADO A UN LUGAR DONDE DEAMBULA EL DIABLO ROJO...

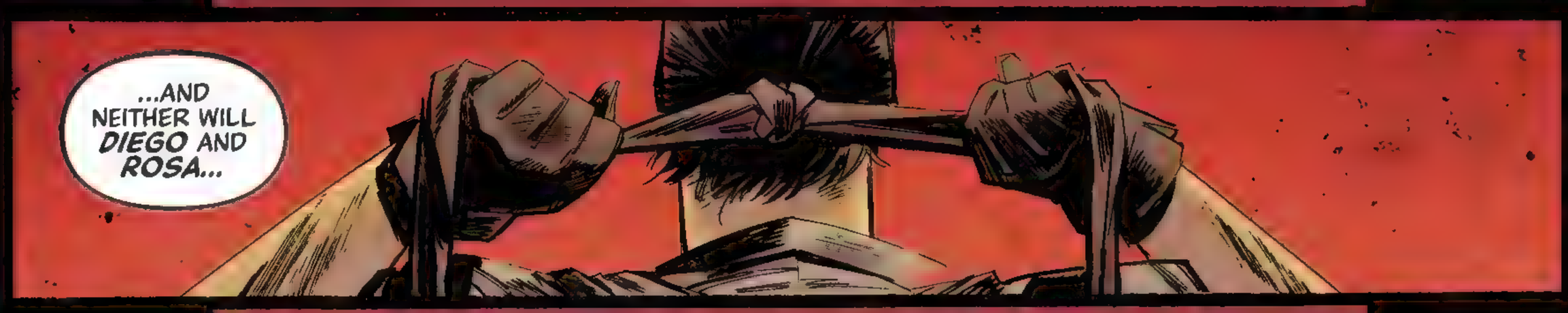
...LA TIERRA DE LOS MUERTOS!

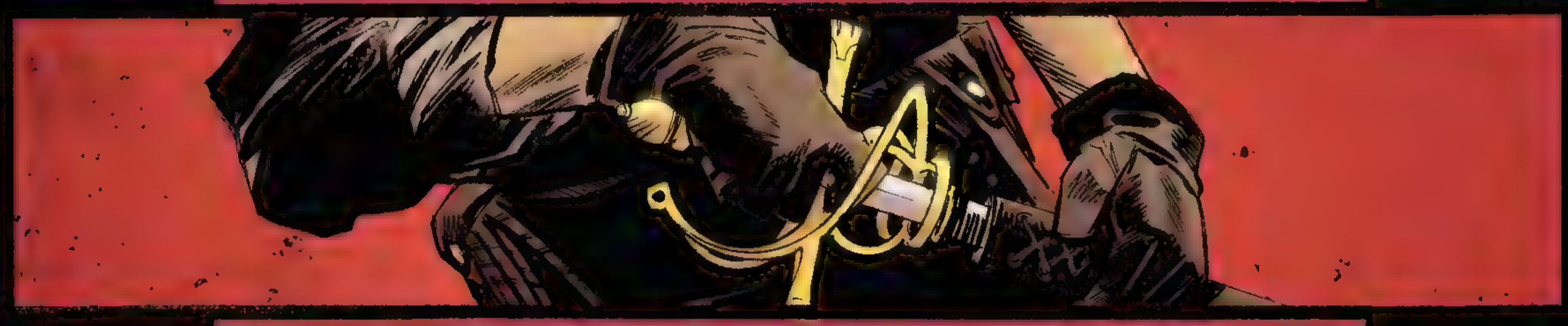
VIVE LA VEGA!
AND VIVE EL ZORRO!
ZORRO Festival
¡HURRA!
DIEGO!
WHIPE
THANK GOD YOU'RE OKAY!
GOD WAS ALWAYS ON OUR SIDE, DEAR ROSA.

VIVE EL ZORRO!
¡HURRA!
BUT I DON'T NEED ZORRO--I NEED MY LITTLE BROTHER.
I NEED YOU, DIEGO.
AND I'LL NEED YOU, DEAR ROSA.
WE ALL WILL.
VIVE EL ZORRO!
¡HURRA!

One Month Later.
I SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE FIGHTING, LOOKING FOR ANY CAUSE THAT WOULD BRING ME CLOSER TO MY FAITH...
...I CAN SEE NOW WHY GOD LED ME TO LA VEGA.
SORRY TO HEAR YOU'LL BE LEAVING US.
ME TOO, BUT I'M NEEDED ELSEWHERE, FATHER.
I THINK IT'S FINALLY FINISHED. THE HEART OF THIS VILLAGE IS RESTORED.
WELL DONE, FATHER.
BUT IT NEEDS ONE FINAL TOUCH.
THANK YOU, ROSA.
TAP TAP TAP

EL ROJO IS GONE, BUT THE CARTEL WON'T LEAVE LA VEGA ALONE FOREVER.
WE WON'T GIVE UP THE VALLEY WITHOUT A FIGHT, SEÑOR CEMENTERIO...


...AND NEITHER WILL *DIEGO* AND *ROSA*...



LOS ZORROS DE LA VEGA

To My Readers
BY SEAN MURPHY

Thank you pages can be so formulaic, so let's see if I can make this one stand out...

Years ago, I was at an event with the famous comic writer Mark Millar. After the signing, we all went to a bar where our readers were waiting. While most creators would hide in the corner and hope for the best, Mark did the opposite—he smiled, grabbed a beer, and dove right into the middle of the crowd.

Not only was he infectiously charming, he was genuinely curious about what his readers thought. He even asked them for criticism, and wanted to know how to make his books better. The readers were already Millar fans, but after seeing how amazing he was in person, I knew they left committed fans for life. Mark didn't just sell them a comic, he sold them an experience. And his attitude has helped him cultivate a fan culture where most of his readers are loyal, kind, and respectful.

I'm not as fearless as Mark, but I do my best to make an impression in my own way. Warmth and authenticity are important to me, because it really helps my readers open up. I truly am interested in what you all have to say. And this attitude has really paid off over the years, because not only are readers getting something from me, I'm getting something from them. Not just a boost of confidence that they like my work, but also the chance to learn about how different we all are.

We all run the risk of getting stuck in our echo chambers, but this is especially tricky for artists and writers. To be better at our craft, we need to draw from a variety of outside resources in order to stay inspired. Because without diversity of thought and opinion, our ideas can become stale and self-serving. Thankfully, my readers have helped me avoid this trap—by meeting people most of us don't normally have access to, it's forced me to become more understanding, respectful and compassionate towards people I might not always align with.

Here's a sample of the types of people who read my books—it's a shocking amount of diversity that'll complicate how you feel about other comic readers, hopefully in a good way...

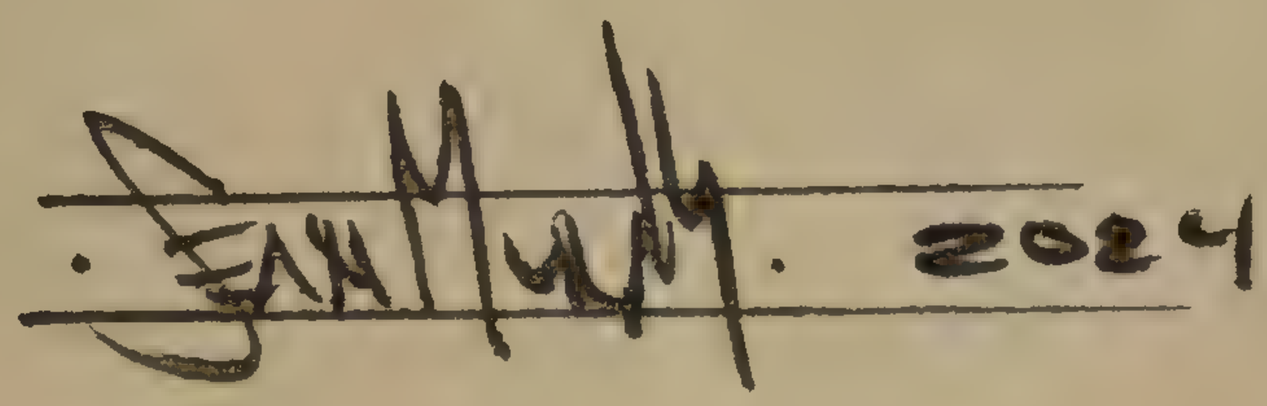
I have one reader who's a conservative Navy SEAL, raising two adopted Asian daughters, one of which is going through a gender transition (and he loves her dearly). Another reader is a die hard liberal who designs scopes for military grade rifles like the AR-15. Two other readers are neighbors in Chicago who bonded over their love of comics—they're so close that when one reader realized they couldn't conceive, the other ended up being a surrogate and carrying the pregnancy (this woman is also blind). Another reader works as a nurse in a psychiatric hospital, and was dealing with a routine suicide 30 minutes before meeting me (routine for her). I have a fan who is a burlesque dancer who only reads Harley Quinn comics as a way to cope with a ton of sexual trauma. Another lost both his legs in Afghanistan when he drove over an IED—it happened one day after he'd tried reaching out to villagers to win "hearts and minds" by reading from a copy of Punk Rock Jesus (yeah, I had so many questions about this one). I also know a reader who is a professional wrestler you all know, one is a famous Youtuber, and another is an executive at Harley Davidson. And the list goes on.

Wild, right? When you think of a comic reader, who don't normally think of these kinds of people, but I've met them. And they're wonderful.

This is why I tell people that I have the best readers in comics. And the best way for me to thank you is to make sure you all feel seen. Many have supported my career for over 20 years, not just by buying my books at comic shops, but by going the extra distance and supporting things like a Zorro Kickstarter campaign. I'm not quite sure how an old fashion medium like comics survives in such a fast-paced world with a million different distractions. But comics seem to mean as much to you as they do to me, so I'll do my best to keep making them, and hopefully remain worthy of your money, your time and your attention.

Thanks again, and I look forward to meeting you in person. Because I know I'm only scratching the surface with what my readers have to offer me.

To the best readers in the business,
Thank you,



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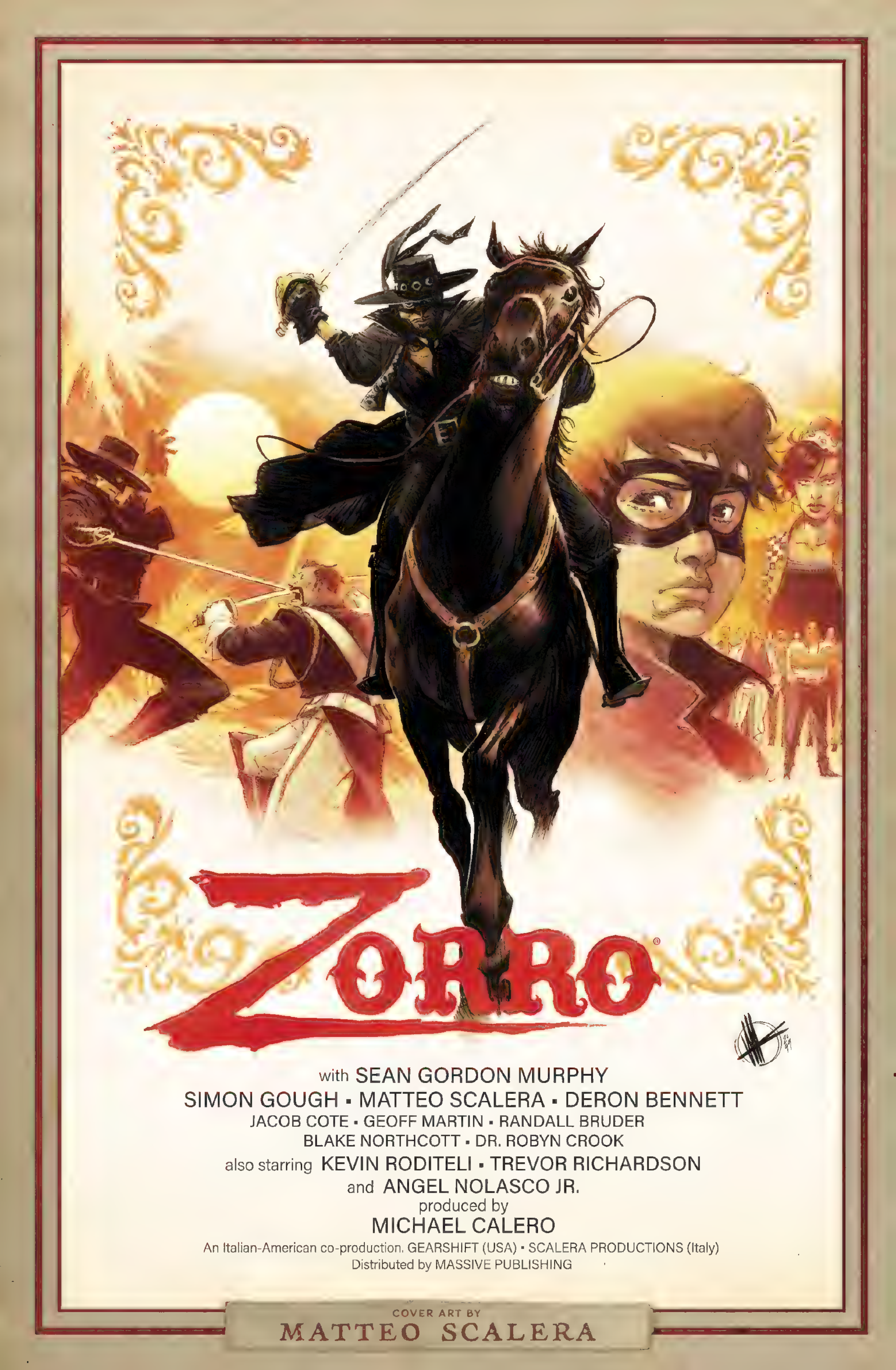
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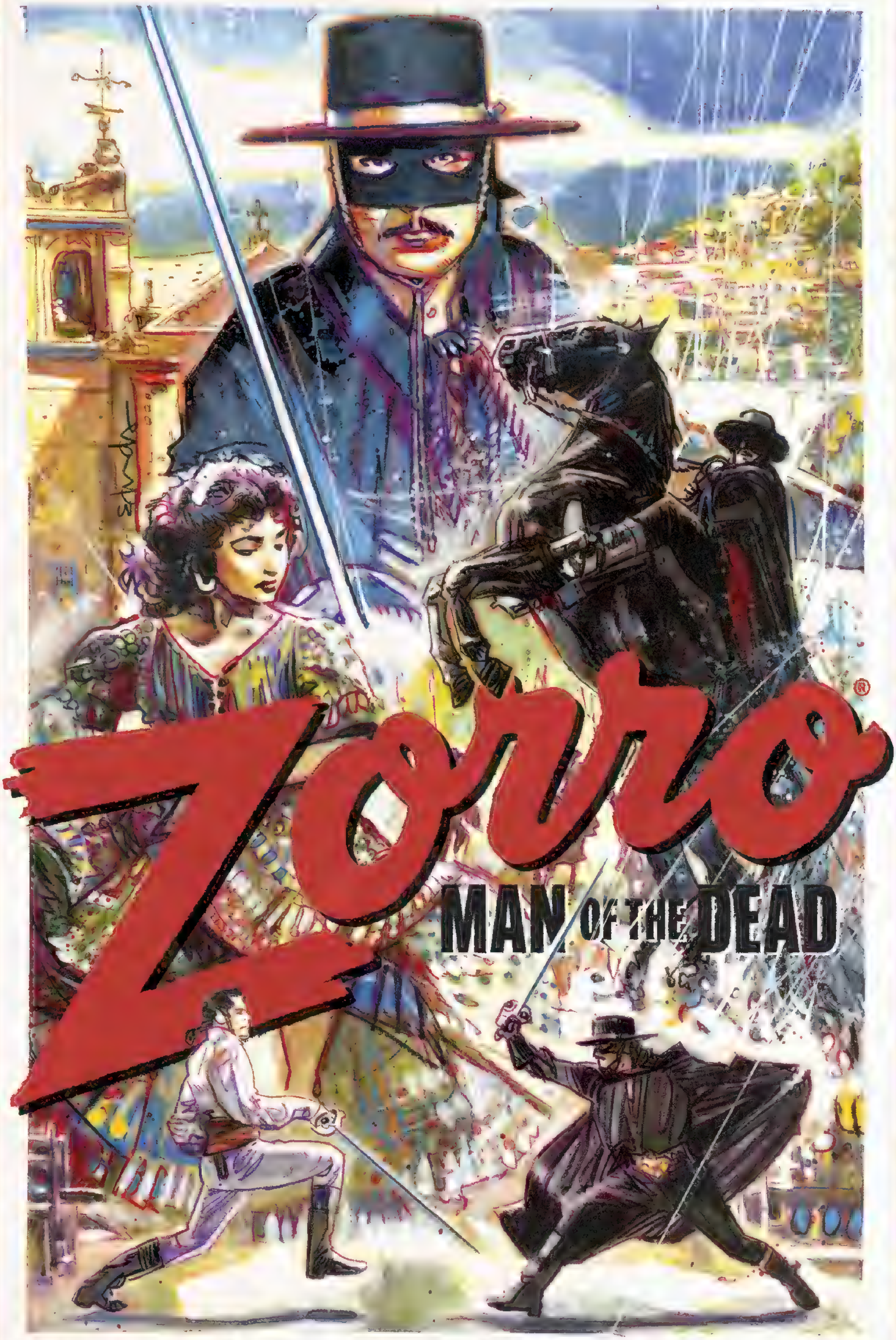

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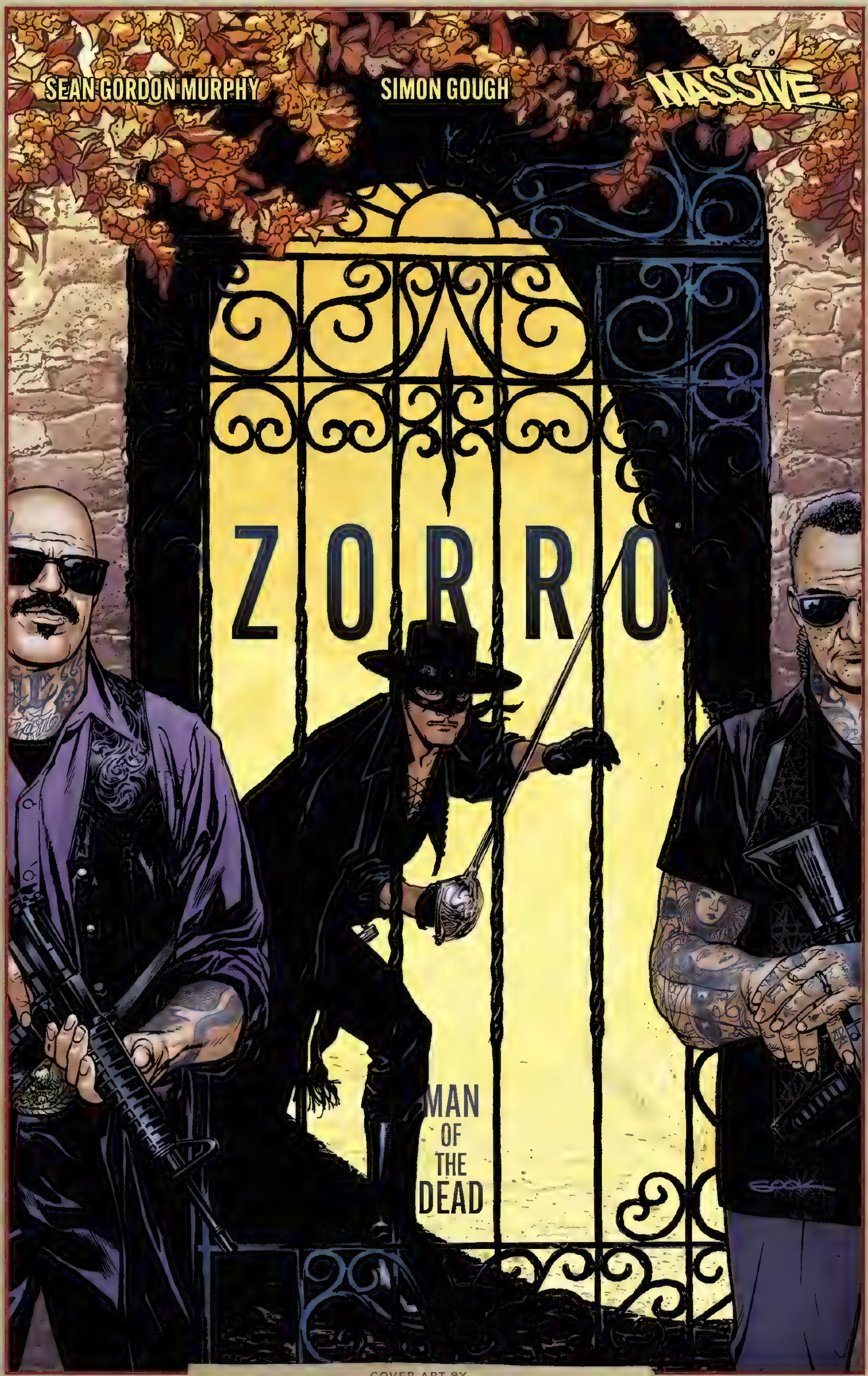

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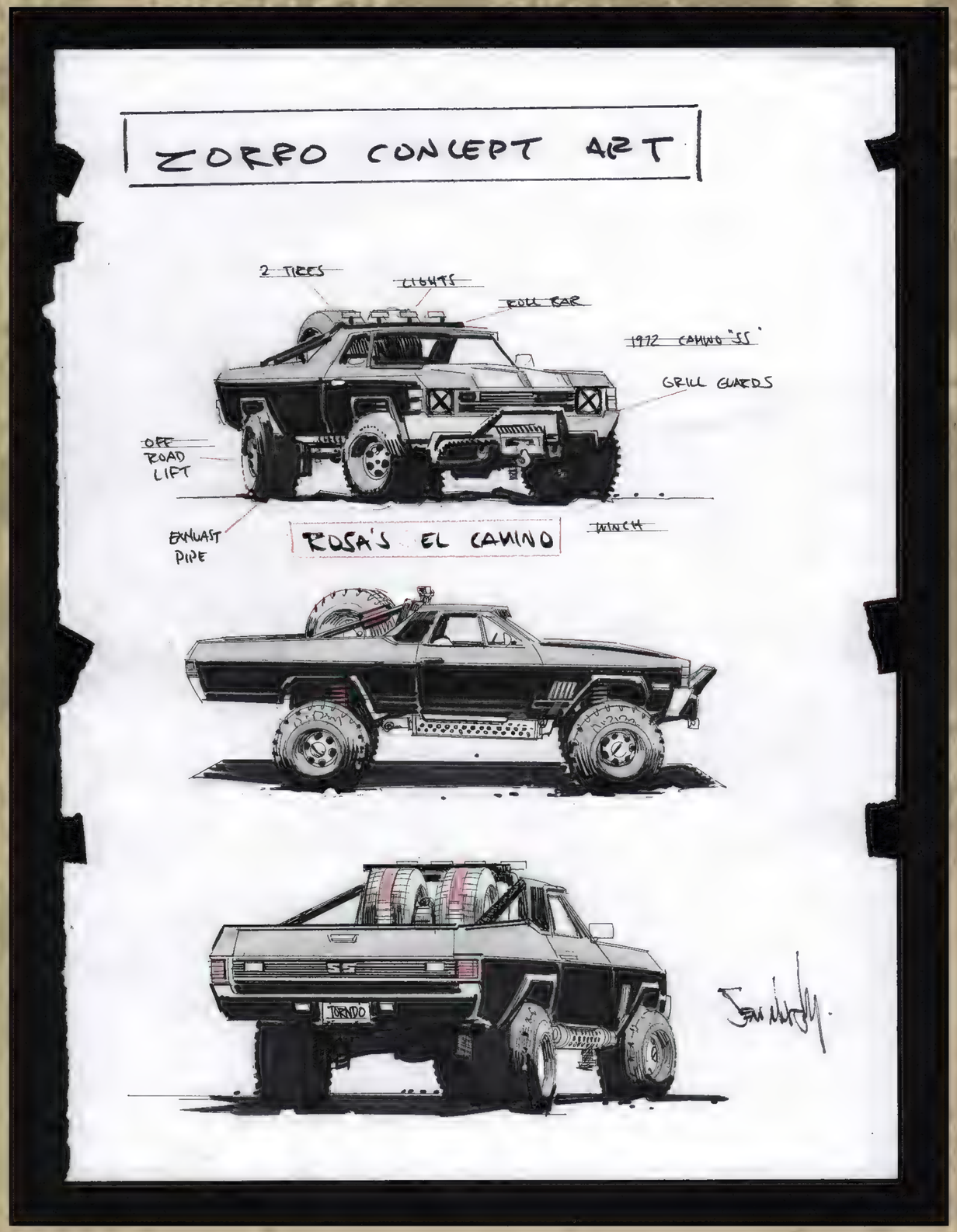

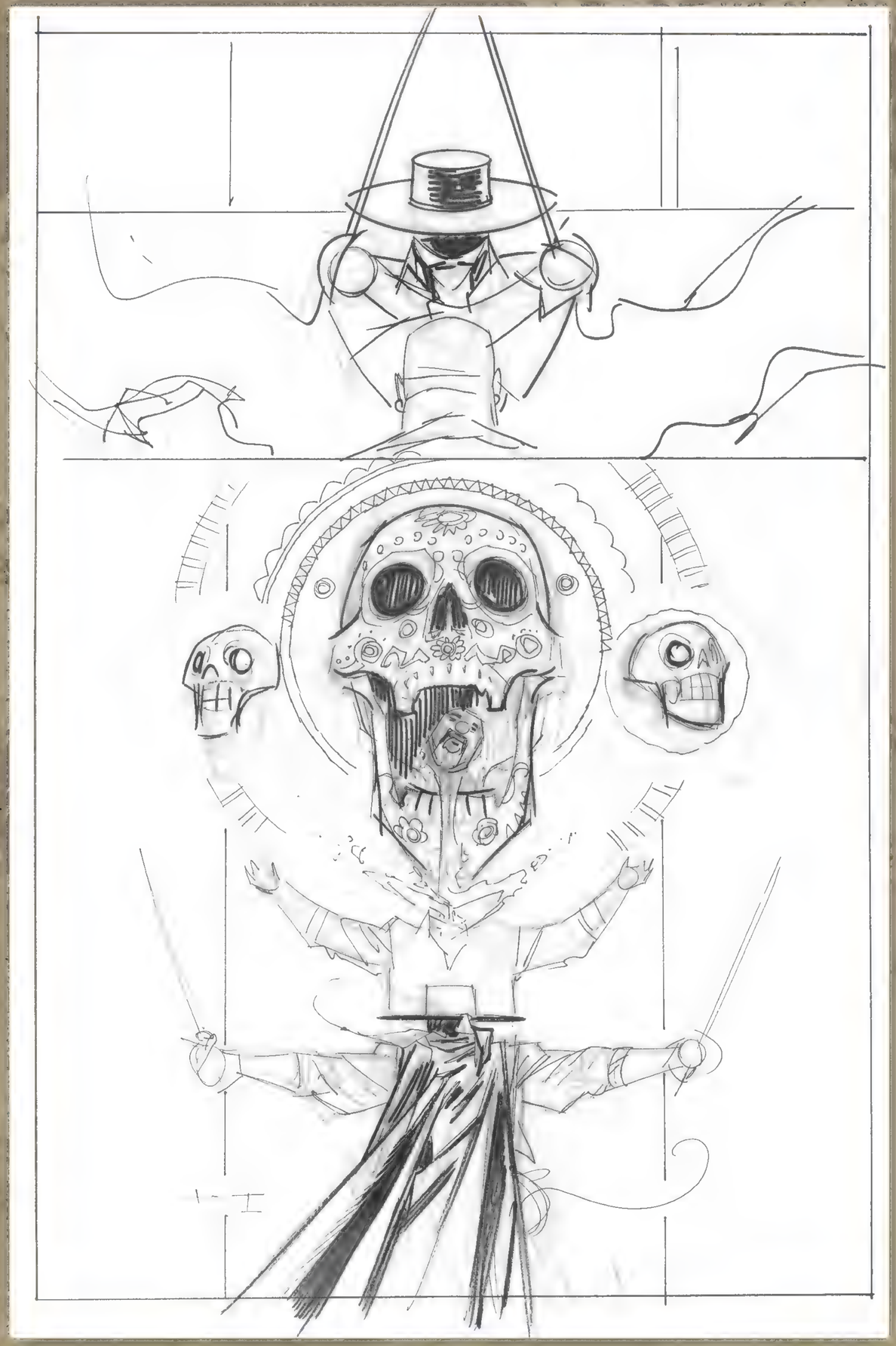

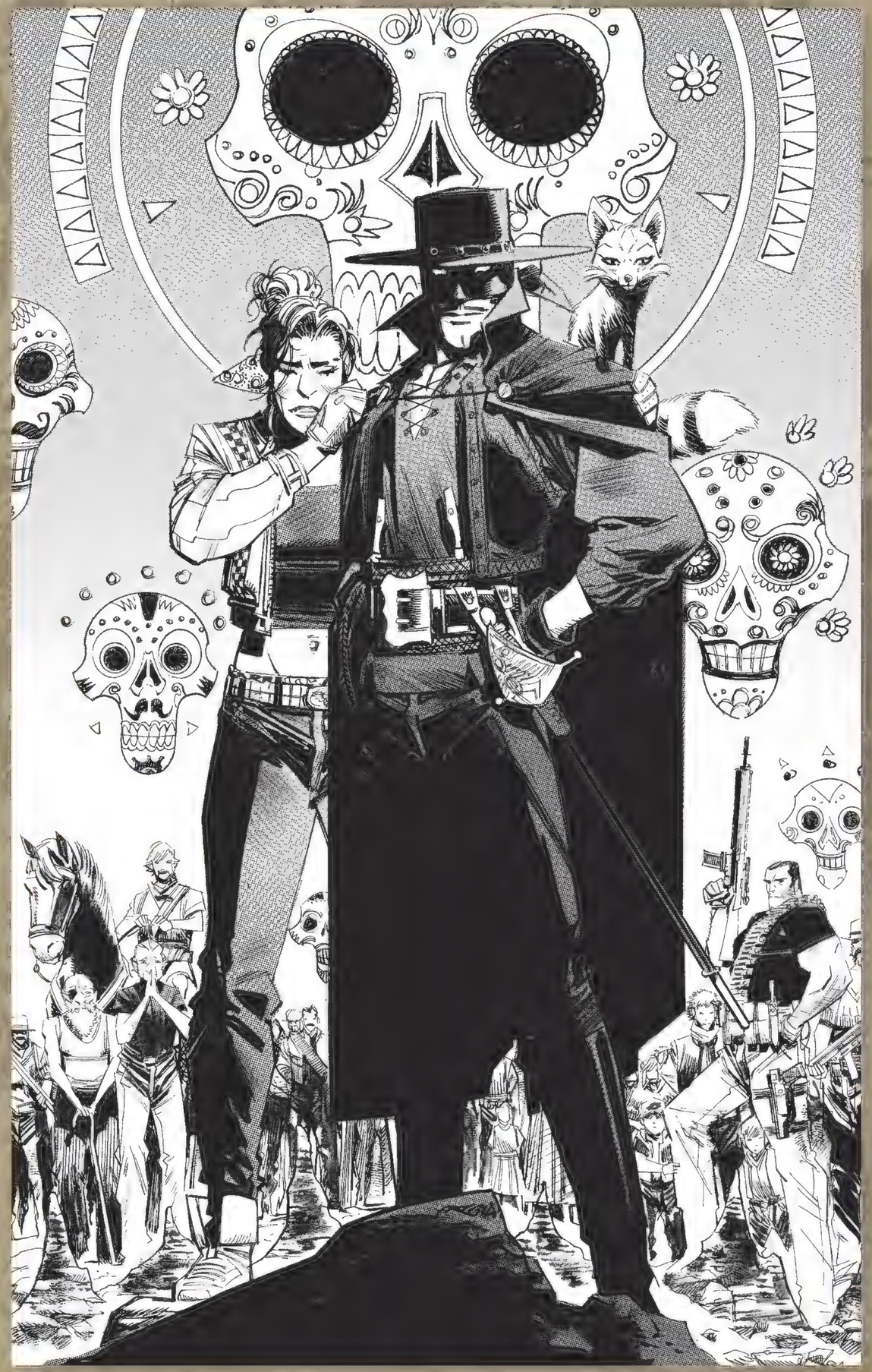

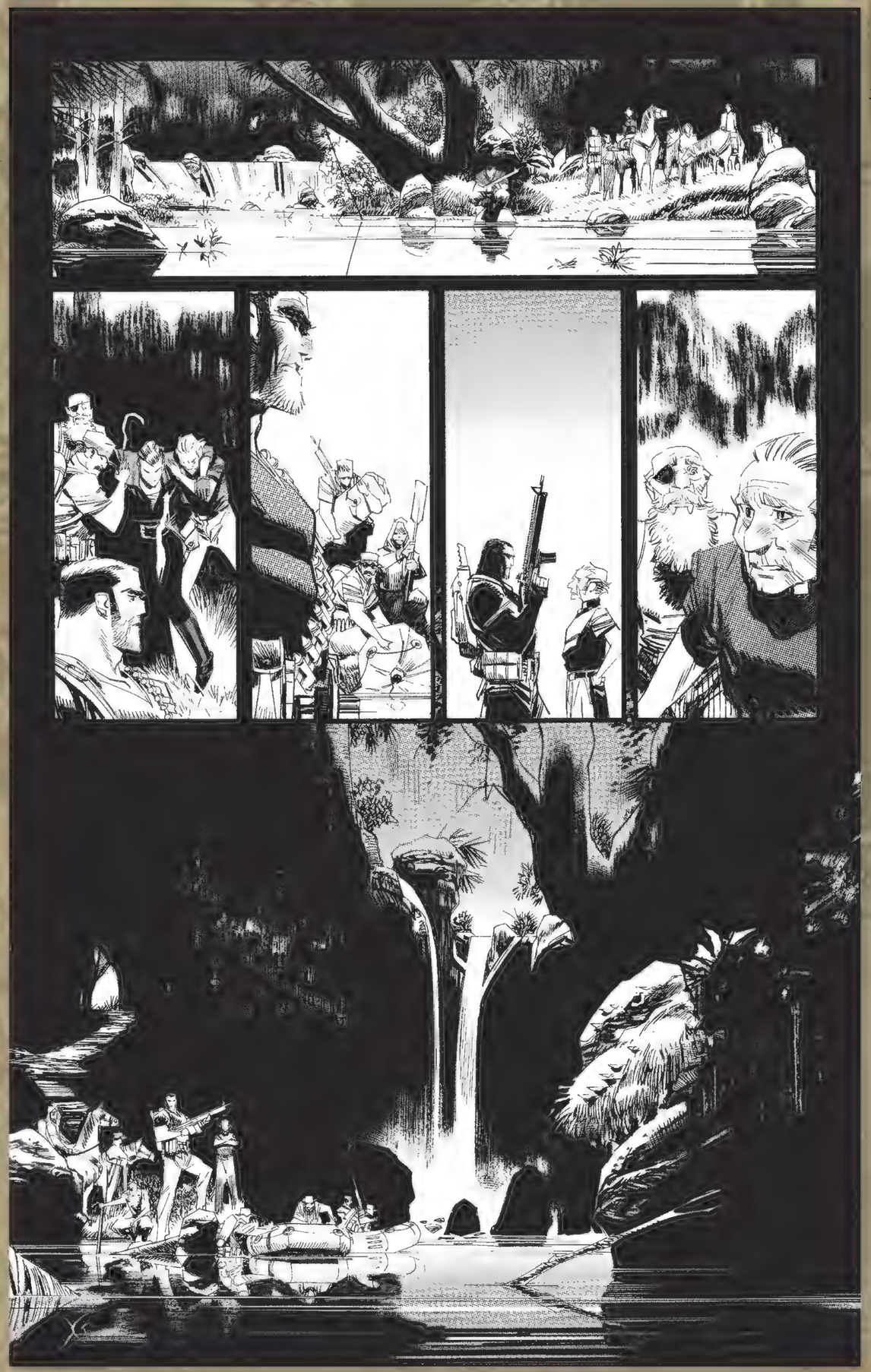

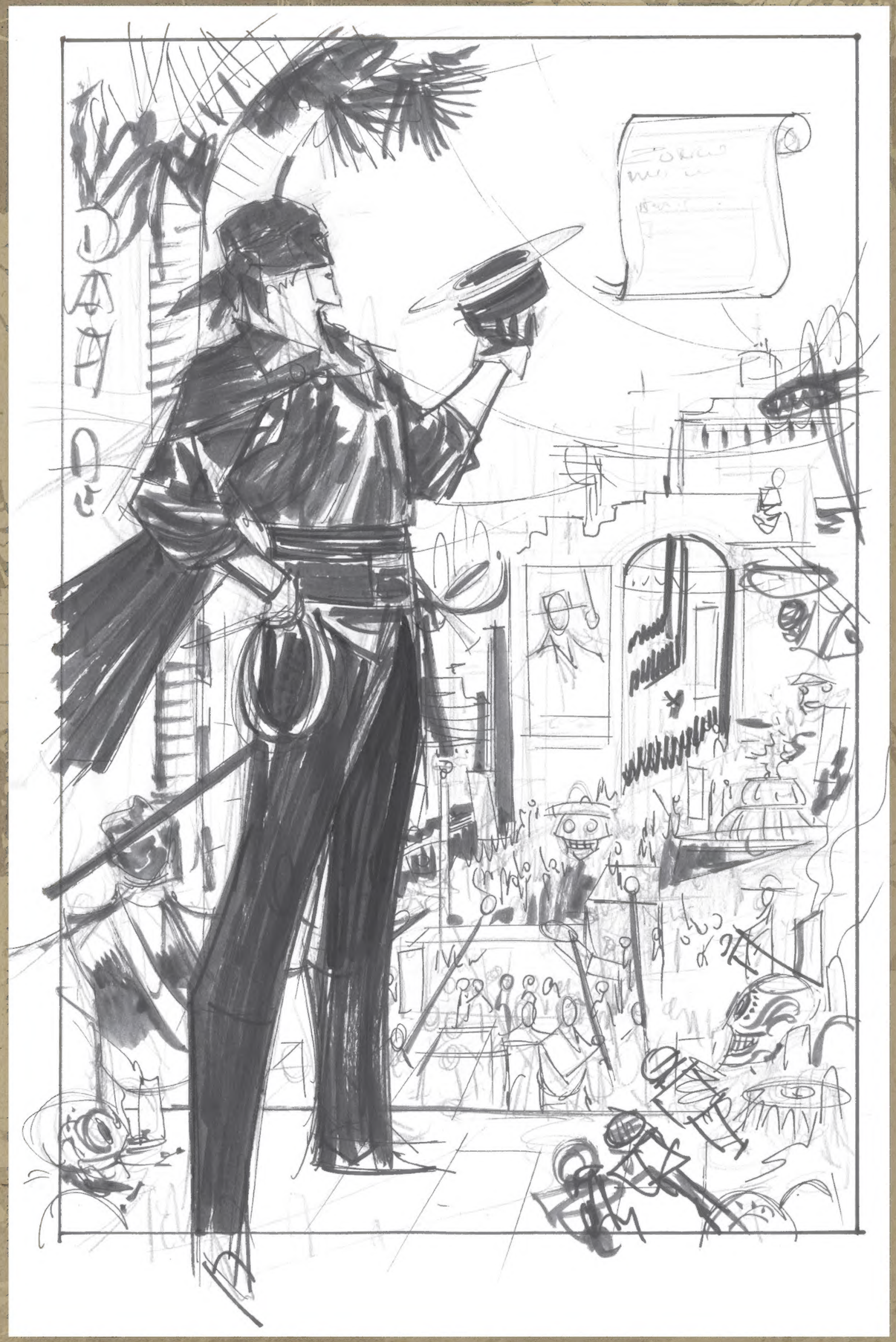

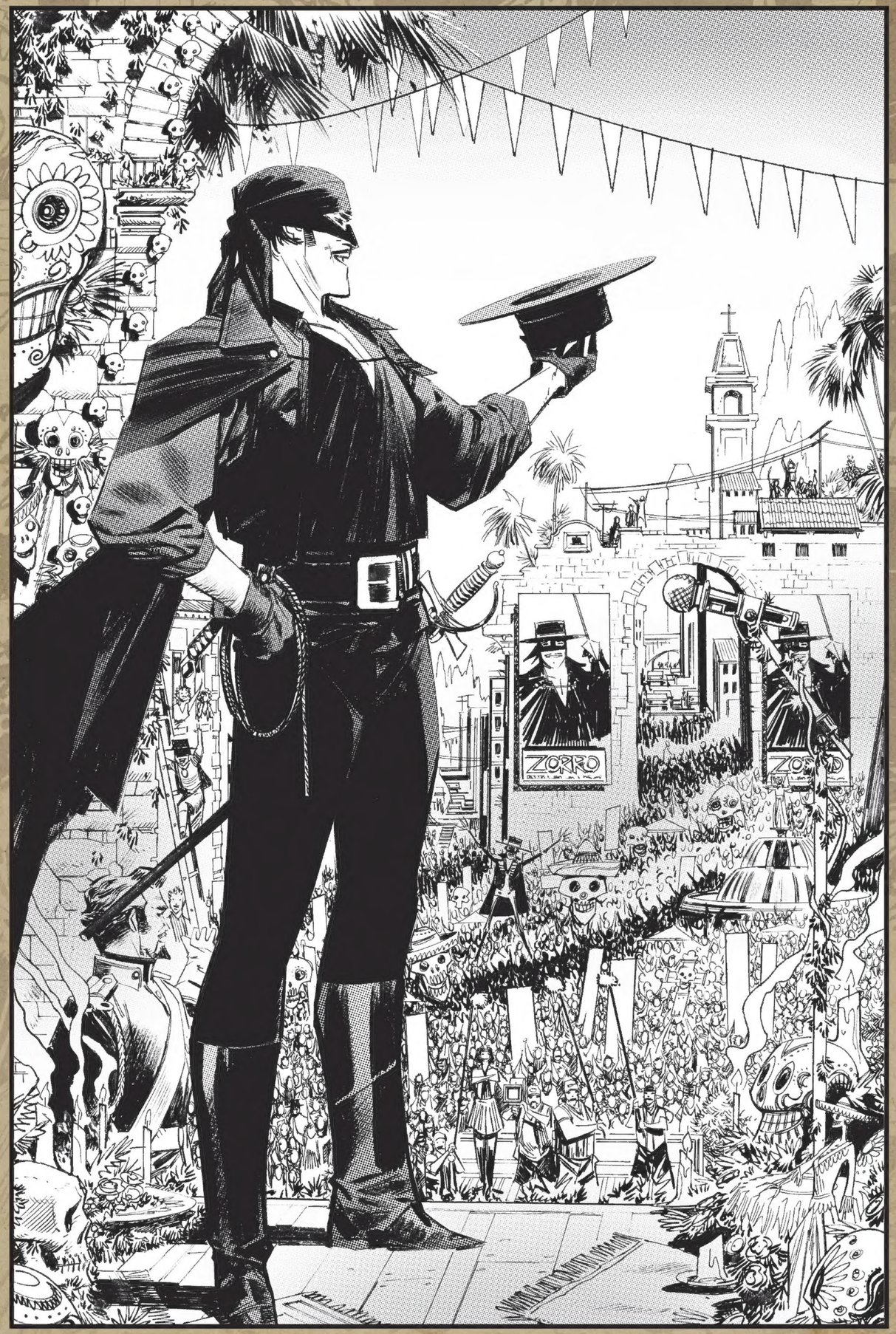
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Don Quixote meets *Narcos* in this modern reimagining of the legendary swashbuckling hero Zorro by Sean Gordon Murphy, the writer-artist behind DC Comics' *Batman: White Knight*.

Diego is a young man who is convinced that he's Zorro. As a child, he suffered a psychotic break after witnessing the murder of his parents by the drug cartel in his village. To cope with the trauma, he embraced the 200-year-old legend of Zorro by donning the mask, training with the sword, and declaring war on the Narcos for the sake of his people.

"This artwork is some of the best I've seen and I think it's the best Sean Murphy has ever been."
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"From adrenaline-fueled action scenes to poignant character moments, each panel is meticulously crafted to evoke emotion and intensity."
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